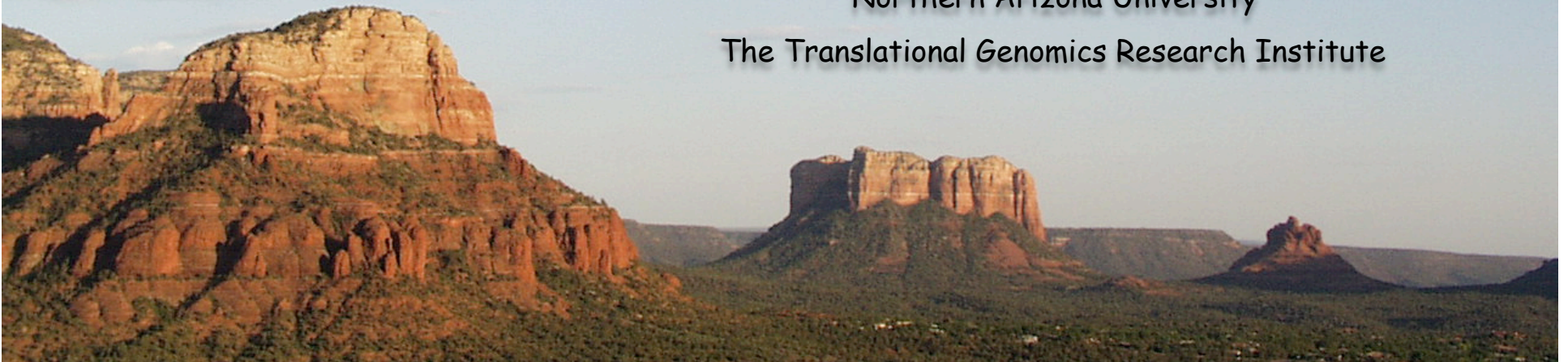


# Plague - the emergence of a highly fit clone that altered the history of mankind

Paul Keim, PhD

Northern Arizona University  
The Translational Genomics Research Institute



# Welcome to New Mexico - Plague Central



SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNOR

CATHERINE D. TORRES, M.D., CABINET SECRETARY

For immediate release:  
May 31, 2012

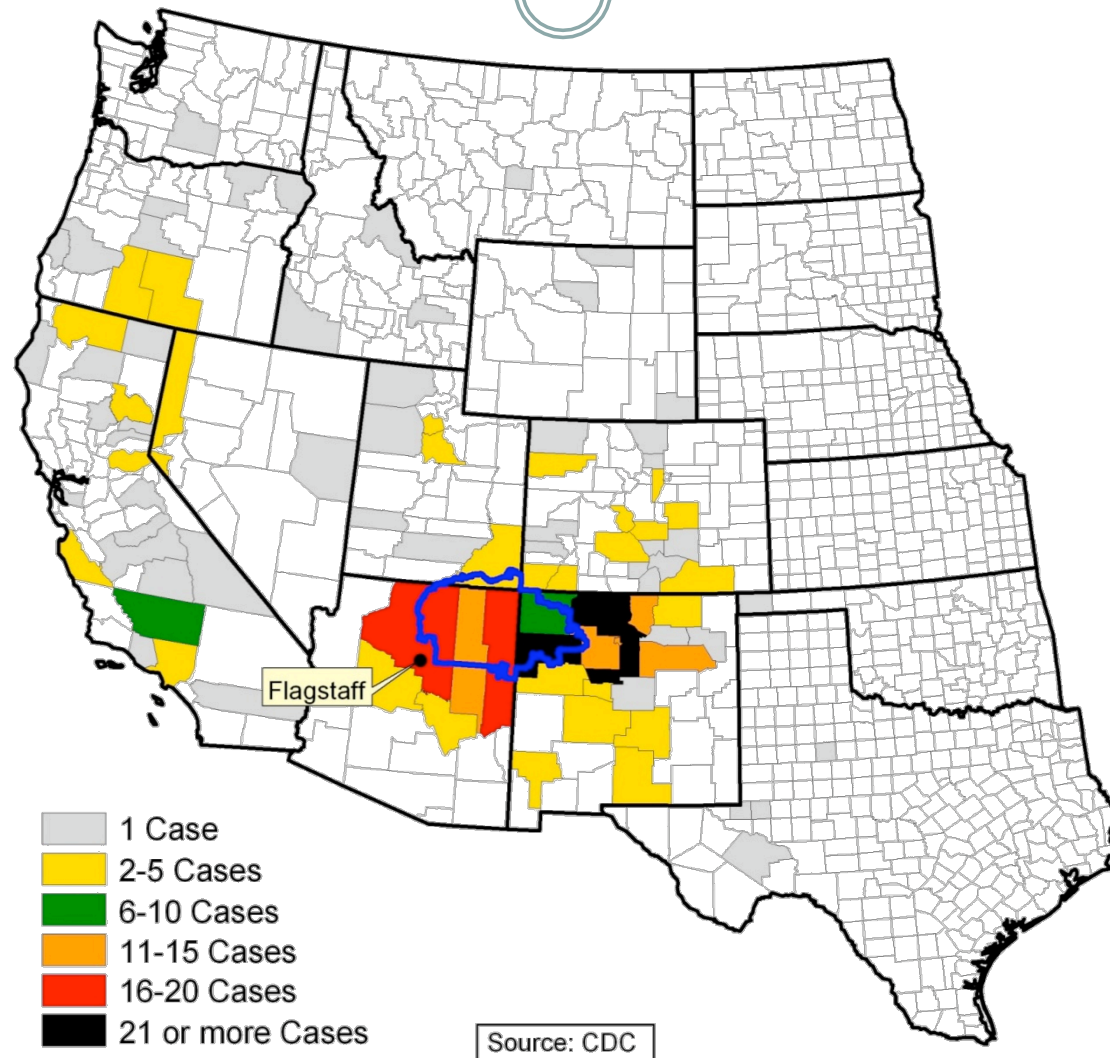
Media contact: Aimee Barabe  
Cell: 505-470-2290

## Department of Health Reports Plague Case in Torrance County Man

*First Case in New Mexico and the United States in 2012*

(Santa Fe) -- The New Mexico Department of Health confirmed today a case of plague in a 78-year-old man from Torrance County who is currently hospitalized in stable condition. This is the first human case of plague in New Mexico this year and in the United States. An environmental investigation will take place at the man's home to look for ongoing risk to others in the surrounding area.

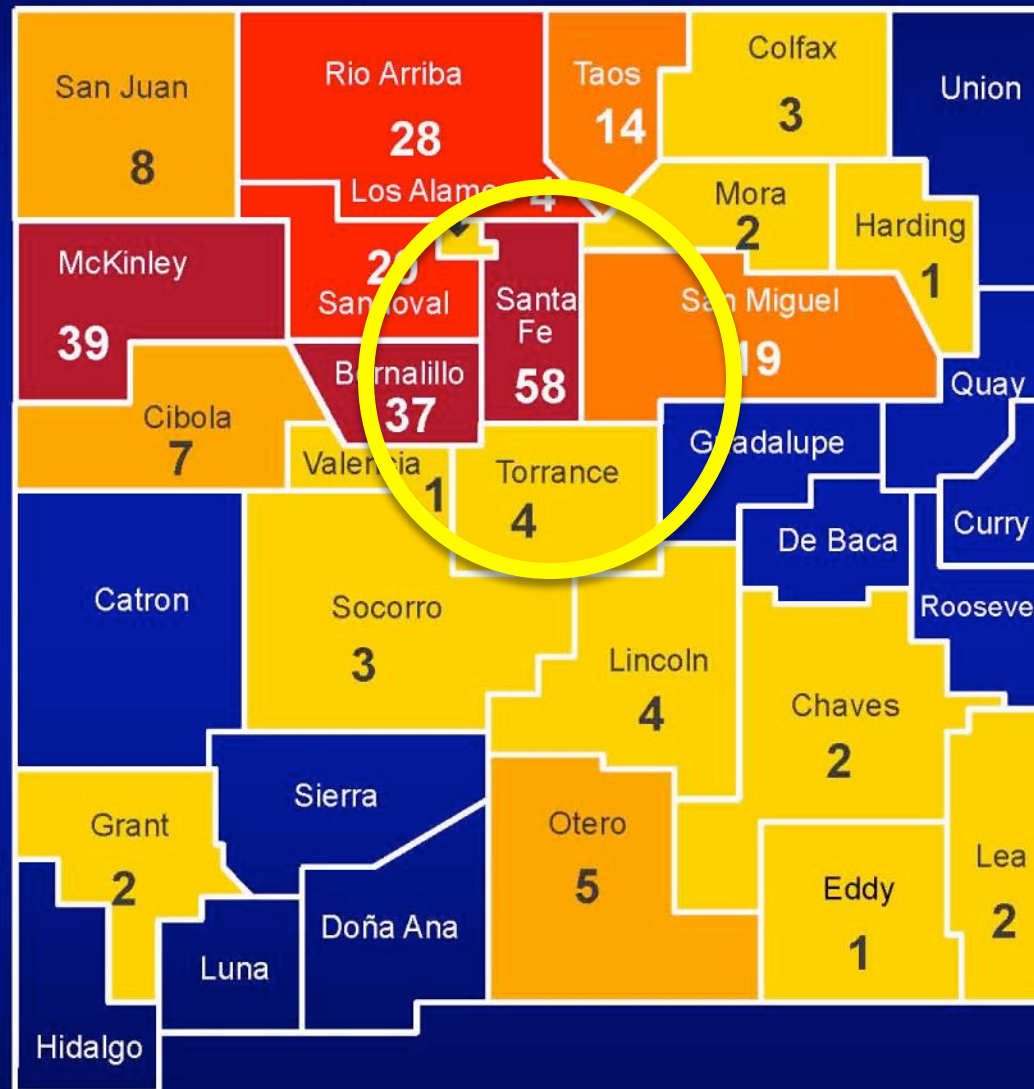
# Human Plague in the US: 1970-2000



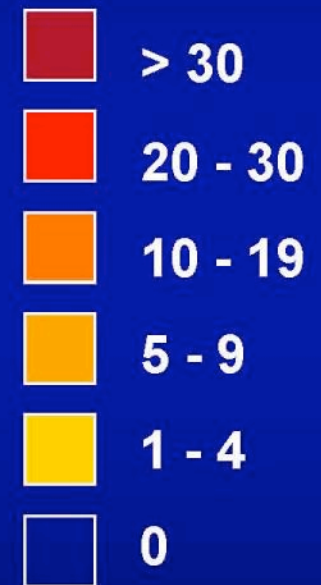


# Human Plague in New Mexico

## Cases by County 1949–2011



### Number of Cases

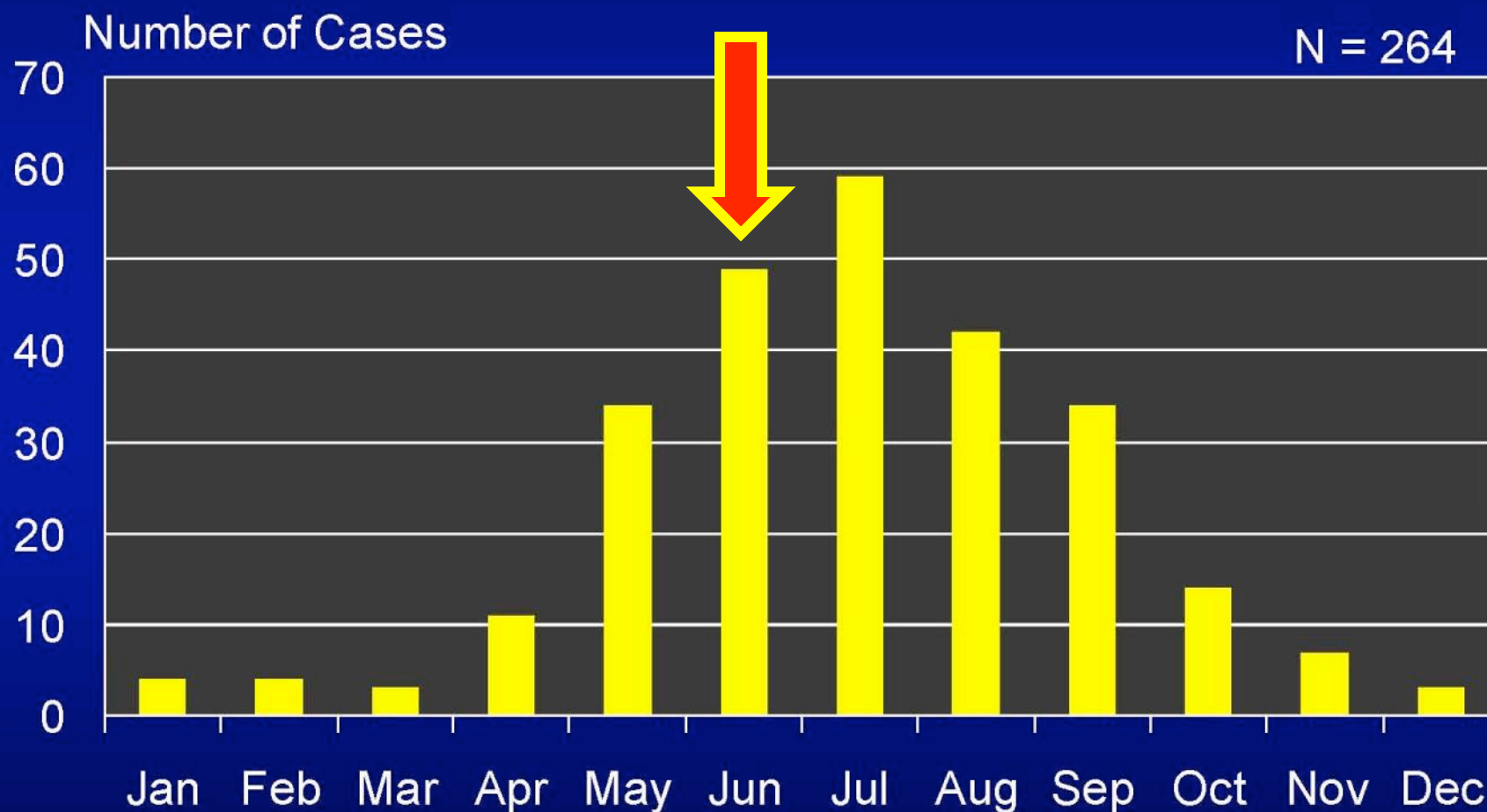


264 Total Cases

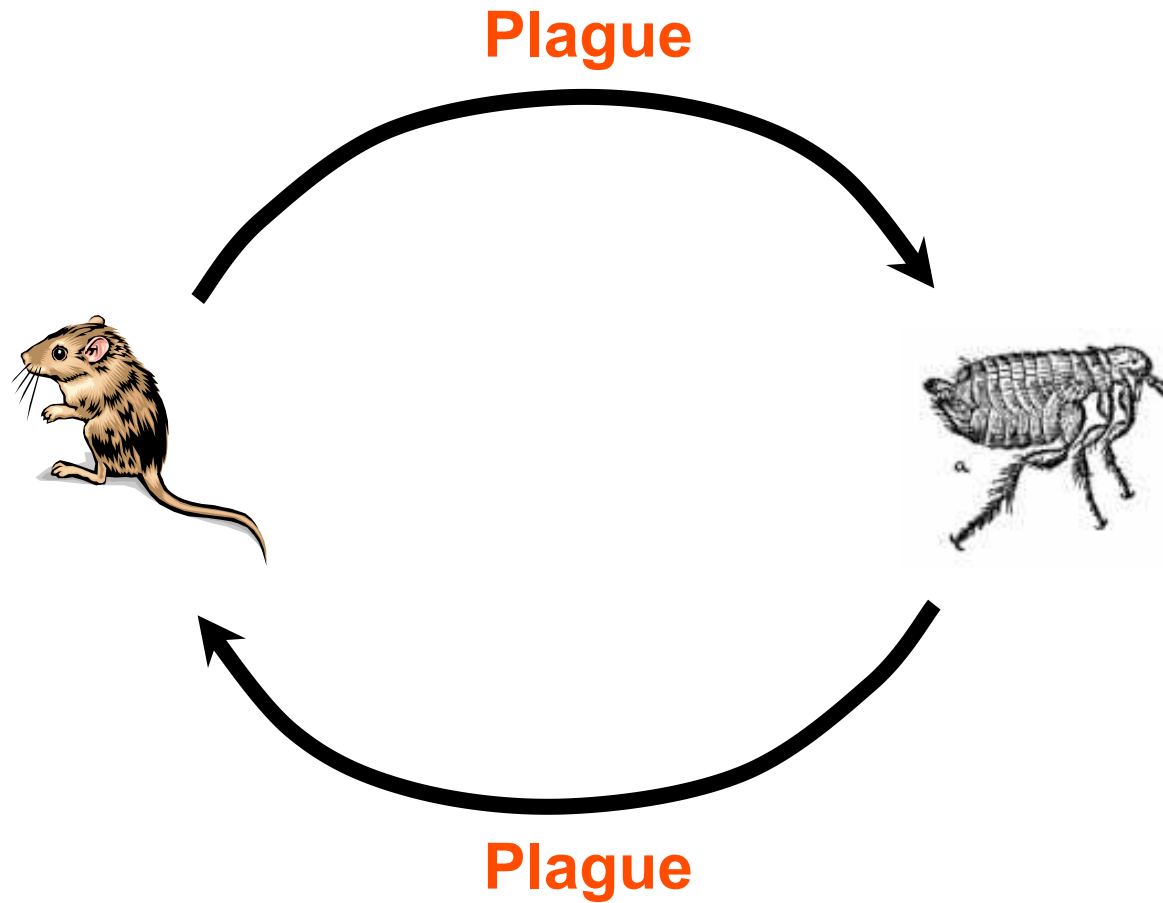


# Human Plague by Onset Month

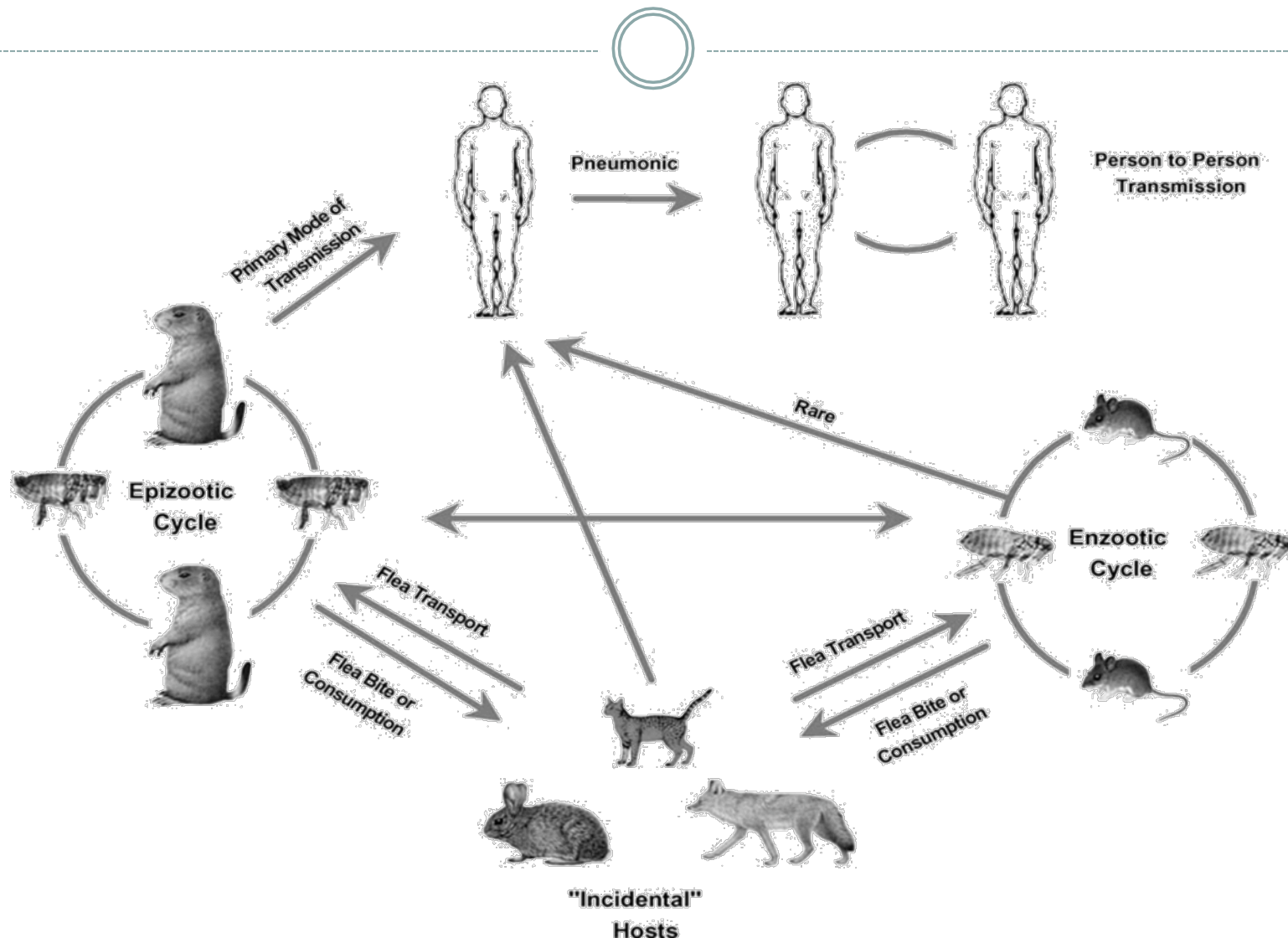
## New Mexico, 1949–2011



# Basic Plague Ecology



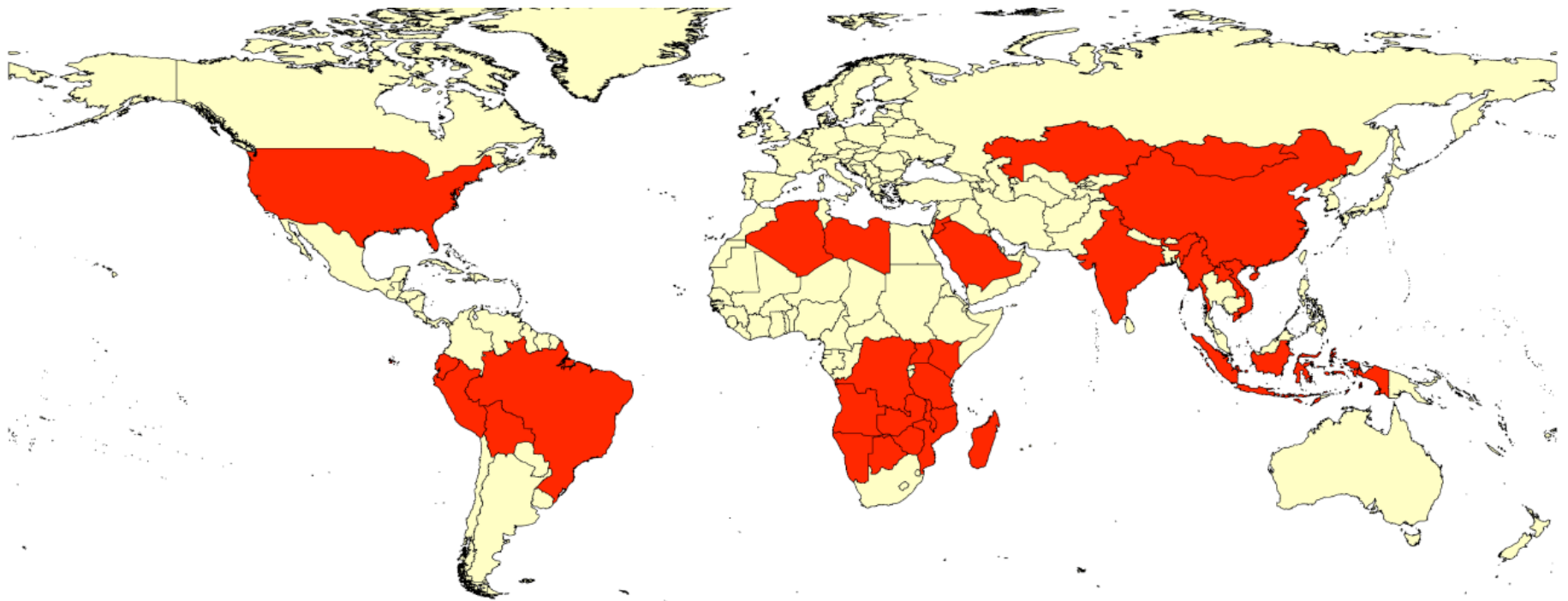
# More Complex Plague Ecology



Gage and Kosoy. 2005. Annual Review of Entomology 50:505-528.



# Plague is Now Globally Distributed



Stenseth *et al.* 2008. PLoS Medicine 5(1):e3

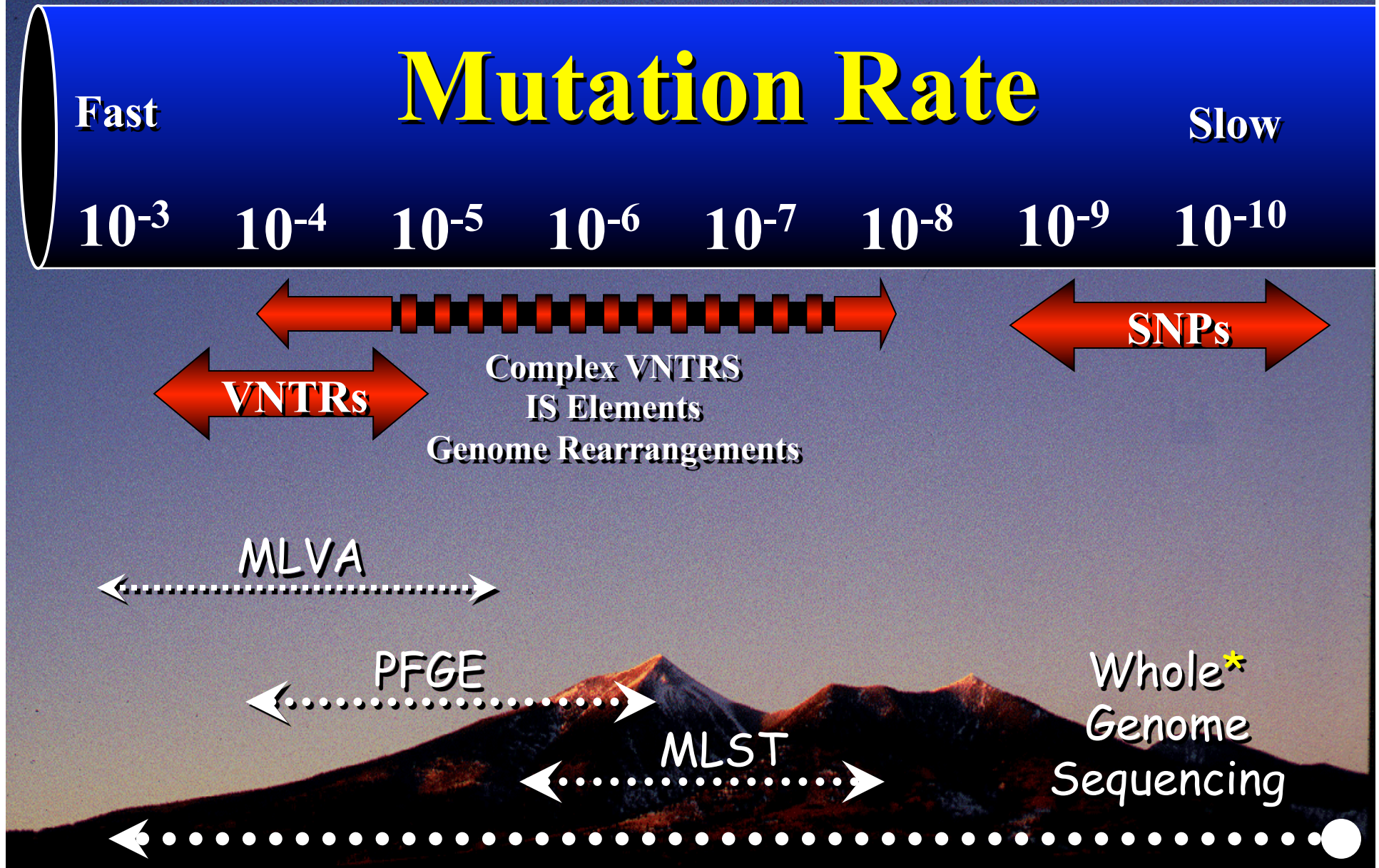
# Three Plague Pandemics (Dogma)



- **1<sup>st</sup> Pandemic:** (*antiqua biovar*)
  - 547-767 AD “Justinian plague”
  - North Africa, Europe, parts of Asia
  - Population losses estimated at 50-60%
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Pandemic:** (*mediaevalis biovar*)
  - 1346-19<sup>th</sup> century
  - North Africa, Europe, parts of Asia
  - Black Death epidemic: 1347-1351
    - ✦ Est. 17-28 million killed, or ~30-40% of the European population
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Pandemic:** (*orientalis biovar*)
  - 1855-present?
  - Global spread out of China: Africa, Americas, Australia, Europe
  - Millions of deaths worldwide
  - Control: improved hygiene (rat control) and antibiotics

*Devignat 1951*

# Evolutionary Scale & Subtyping

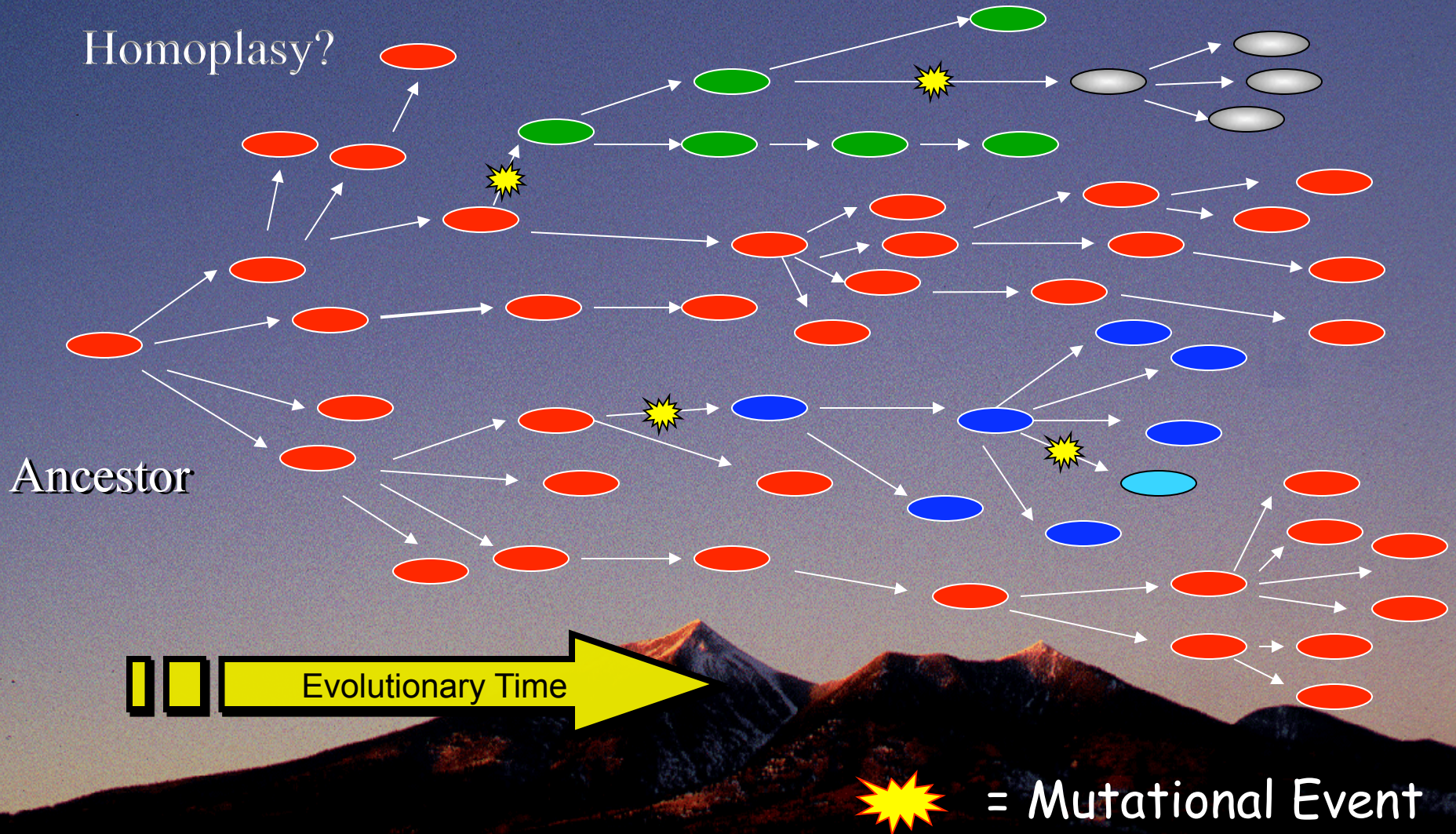




# Diversity Generation in an Idealized Clonally Propagating Pathogen

Phylogenetic reconstruction!

Homoplasy?





## Microevolution and history of the plague bacillus, *Yersinia pestis*

Mark Achtman<sup>\*†</sup>, Giovanna Morelli<sup>\*</sup>, Peixuan Zhu<sup>\*‡</sup>, Thierry Wirth<sup>\*§</sup>, Ines Diehl<sup>\*</sup>, Barica Kusecek<sup>\*</sup>, Amy J. Vogler<sup>¶</sup>, David M. Wagner<sup>¶</sup>, Christopher J. Allender<sup>¶</sup>, W. Ryan Easterday<sup>¶</sup>, Viviane Chenal-Francisque<sup>¶</sup>, Patricia Worsham<sup>\*\*</sup>, Nicholas R. Thomson<sup>††</sup>, Julian Parkhill<sup>††</sup>, Luther E. Lindler<sup>‡§§</sup>, Elisabeth Carniel<sup>¶</sup>, and Paul Keim<sup>¶,¶¶</sup>

<sup>\*</sup>Department of Molecular Biology, Max-Planck Institut für Infektionsbiologie, D-10117 Berlin, Germany; <sup>¶</sup>Department of Biological Sciences, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ 86011-5640; <sup>¶</sup>Yersinia Research Unit, Institut Pasteur, 75724 Paris Cedex 15, France; <sup>\*\*</sup>U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, Fort Detrick, Frederick, MD 21702-5011; <sup>††</sup>The Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, Hinxton, Cambridge CB10 1SA, United Kingdom; <sup>‡</sup>National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center, Frederick, MD 21703; <sup>§§</sup>Department of Bacterial Diseases, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Silver Spring, MD 20910; and <sup>¶¶¶</sup>Translational Research Institute, Phoenix, AZ 85004

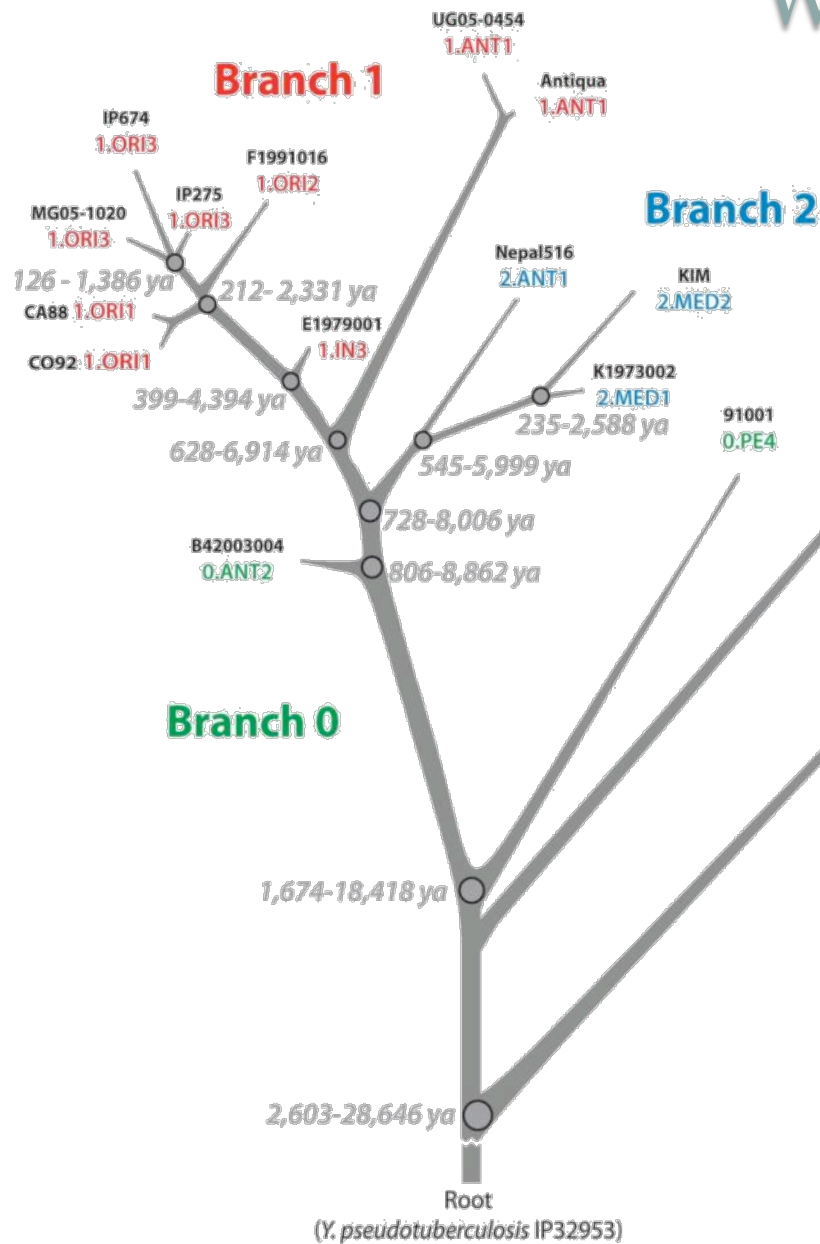
nature  
genetics

## *Yersinia pestis* genome sequencing identifies patterns of global phylogenetic diversity

Giovanna Morelli<sup>1,16</sup>, Yajun Song<sup>2,3,16</sup>, Camila J Mazzoni<sup>1,3,16</sup>, Mark Eppinger<sup>4,16</sup>, Philippe Roumagnac<sup>1,5</sup>, David M Wagner<sup>6</sup>, Mirjam Feldkamp<sup>1</sup>, Barica Kusecek<sup>1</sup>, Amy J Vogler<sup>6</sup>, Yanjun Li<sup>2</sup>, Yujun Cui<sup>2</sup>, Nicholas R Thomson<sup>7</sup>, Thibaut Jombart<sup>8</sup>, Raphael Leblois<sup>9</sup>, Peter Lichtner<sup>10</sup>, Lila Rahalison<sup>11</sup>, Jeannine M Petersen<sup>12</sup>, Francois Balloux<sup>8</sup>, Paul Keim<sup>6,13</sup>, Thierry Wirth<sup>1,9</sup>, Jacques Ravel<sup>4</sup>, Ruifu Yang<sup>2</sup>, Elisabeth Carniel<sup>14</sup> & Mark Achtman<sup>1,3,15</sup>

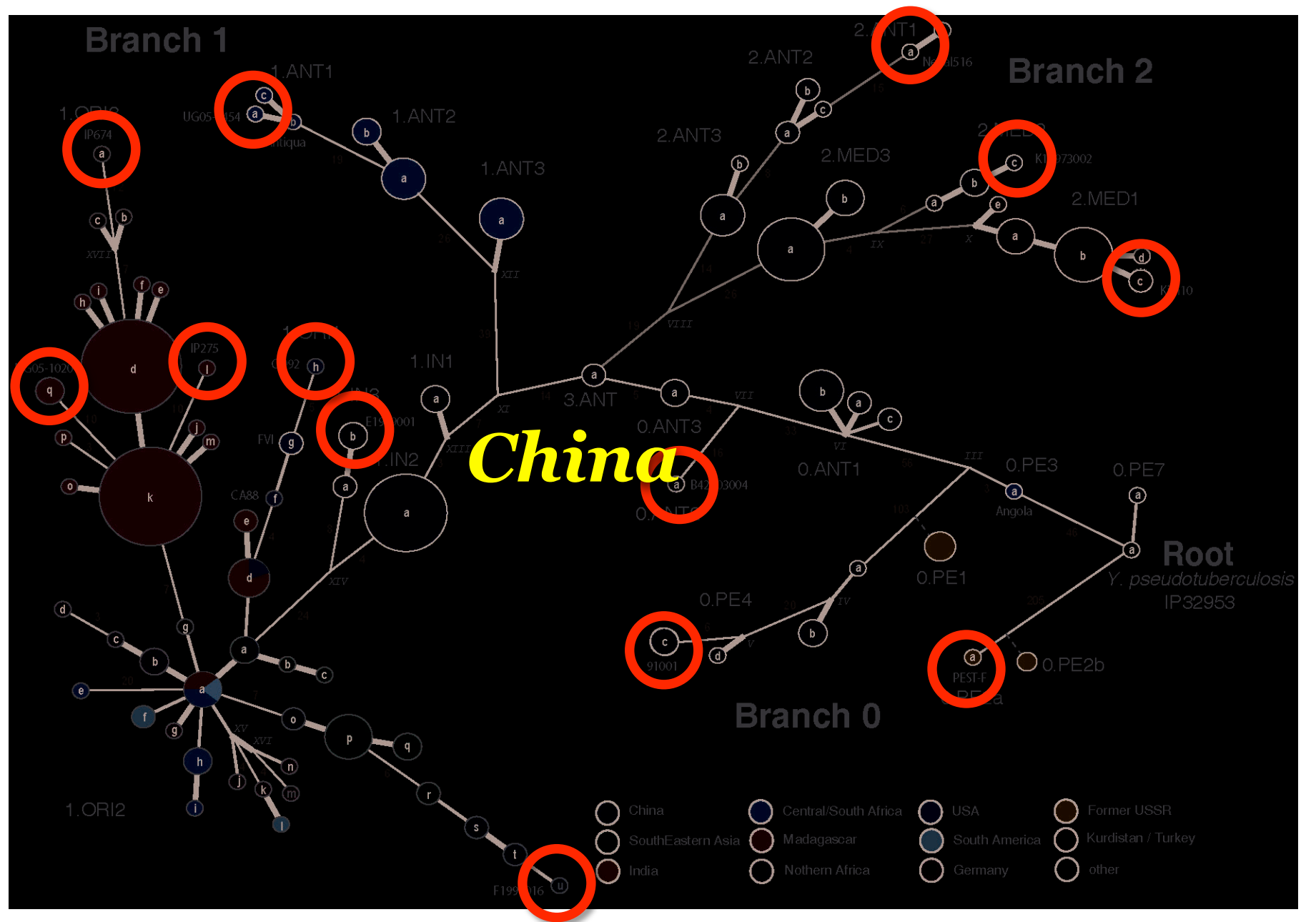
Achtman *et al.* 2004. PNAS; Morelli *et al.* 2010. Nature Genetics.

# Whole Genome Phylogeny of *Yersinia pestis*



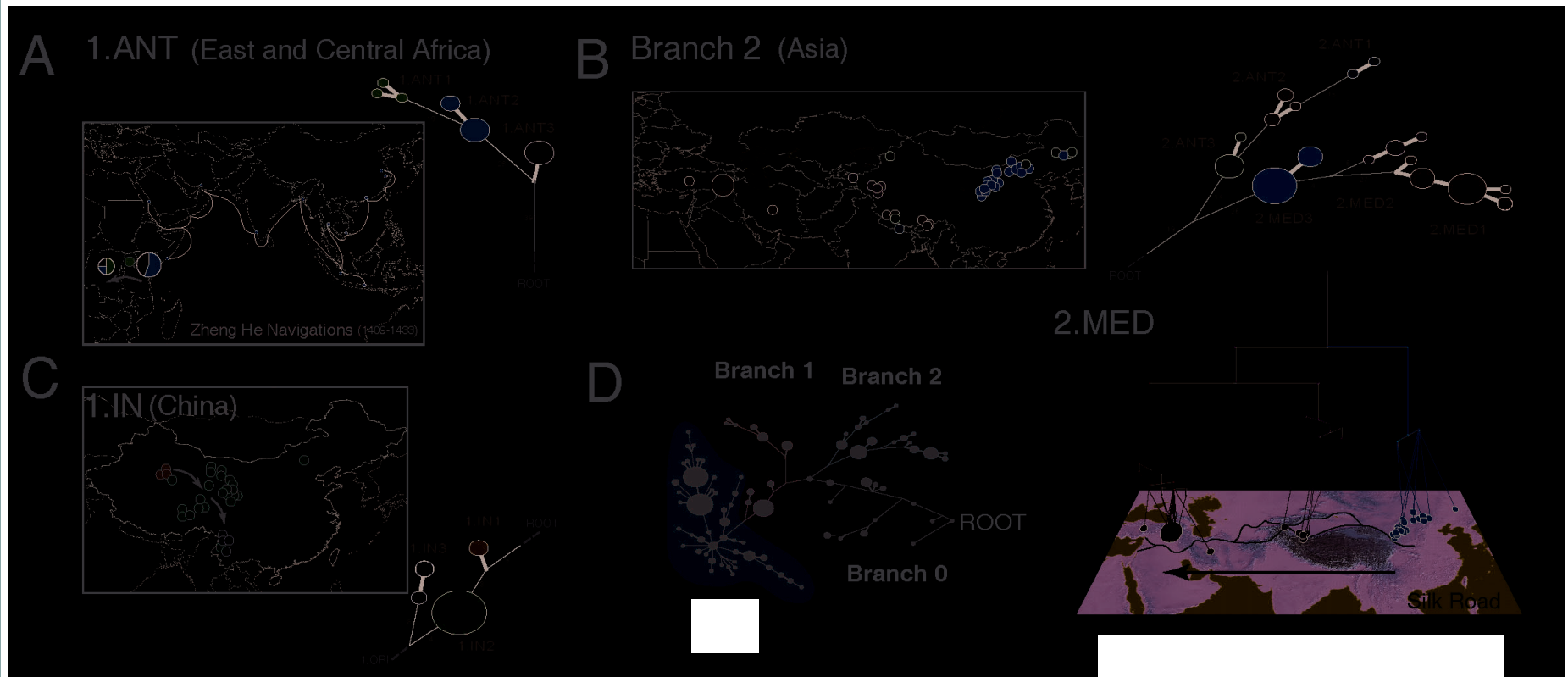
Morelli *et al.* 2010. Nature Genetics 42:1140-1143.





Morelli *et al.* 2010. *Nature Genetics* 42:1140-1143.

# Plague Out of China Again and Again



Morelli *et al.* 2010. *Nature Genetics* 42:1140-1143.

# Distinct Clones of *Yersinia pestis* Caused the Black Death

Stephanie Haensch<sup>1</sup>, Raffaella Bianucci<sup>2,3</sup>, Michel Signoli<sup>3,4</sup>, Minoarisoa Rajerison<sup>5</sup>, Michael Schultz<sup>6</sup>, Sacha Kacki<sup>7,8</sup>, Marco Vermunt<sup>9</sup>, Darlene A. Weston<sup>10,11,12</sup>, Derek Hurst<sup>13</sup>, Mark Achtman<sup>14</sup>, Elisabeth Carniel<sup>15</sup>, Barbara Bramanti<sup>1\*</sup>

**1** Institute for Anthropology, Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany, **2** Laboratory of Criminalistic Sciences Department of Anatomy, Pharmacology and Legal Medicine, University of Turin, Turin, Italy, **3** Unité d'Anthropologie Bioculturelle, Faculté de Médecine, University of Mediterranean-CNRS-EFS, Marseille, France, **4** Centre d'Études Préhistoire, Antiquité, Moyen-âge, UMR 6130 CNRS-250 University of Nice, Valbonne, France, **5** Center for Plague, Institute Pasteur de Madagascar, World Health Organization Collaborating, Antananarivo, Madagascar, **6** Department of Anatomy and Embryology Medical Faculty, Georg-August University, Göttingen, Germany, **7** Inrap, Villeneuve-d'Ascq Archaeological Center, Villeneuve-d'Ascq, France, **8** Laboratoire d'Anthropologie des Populations du Passé, Université Bordeaux 1, Talence, France, **9** Department of Monuments and Archaeology, Municipality of Bergen op Zoom, Bergen op Zoom, The Netherlands, **10** Barge's Anthropologica, Department of Anatomy and Embryology, Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, The Netherlands, **11** Division of Archaeological Sciences, University of Bradford, Bradford, West Yorkshire, United Kingdom, **12** Department of Human Evolution, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany, **13** Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, Worcester, United Kingdom, **14** Environmental Research Institute, University College Cork, Cork, Ireland, **15** Yersinia Research Unit, Institut Pasteur, Paris, France

## Abstract

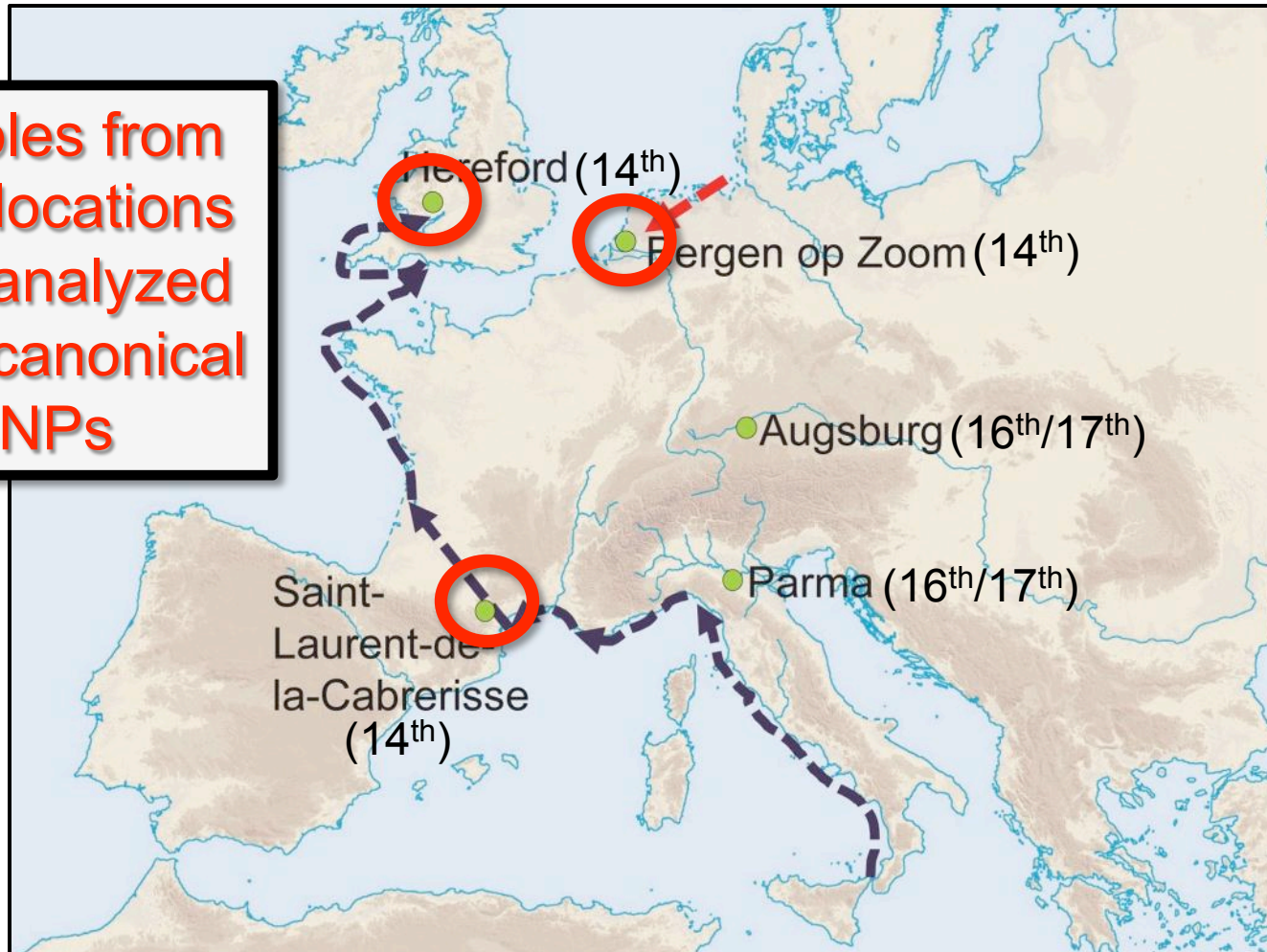
From AD 1347 to AD 1353, the Black Death killed tens of millions of people in Europe, leaving misery and devastation in its wake, with successive epidemics ravaging the continent until the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The etiology of this disease has remained highly controversial, ranging from claims based on genetics and the historical descriptions of symptoms that it was caused by *Yersinia pestis* to conclusions that it must have been caused by other pathogens. It has also been disputed whether plague had the same etiology in northern and southern Europe. Here we identified DNA and protein signatures specific for *Y. pestis* in human skeletons from mass graves in northern, central and southern Europe that were associated archaeologically with the Black Death and subsequent resurgences. We confirm that *Y. pestis* caused the Black Death and later epidemics on the entire European continent over the course of four centuries. Furthermore, on the basis of 17 single nucleotide polymorphisms plus the absence of a deletion in *glpD* gene, our aDNA results identified two previously unknown but related clades of *Y. pestis* associated with distinct medieval mass graves. These findings suggest that plague was imported to Europe on two or more occasions, each following a distinct route. These two clades are ancestral to modern isolates of *Y. pestis* biovars Orientalis and Medievalis. Our results clarify the etiology of the Black Death and provide a paradigm for a detailed historical reconstruction of the infection routes followed by this disease.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Plague Pandemic: 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries



Samples from  
three locations  
were analyzed  
using canonical  
SNPs





LETTER

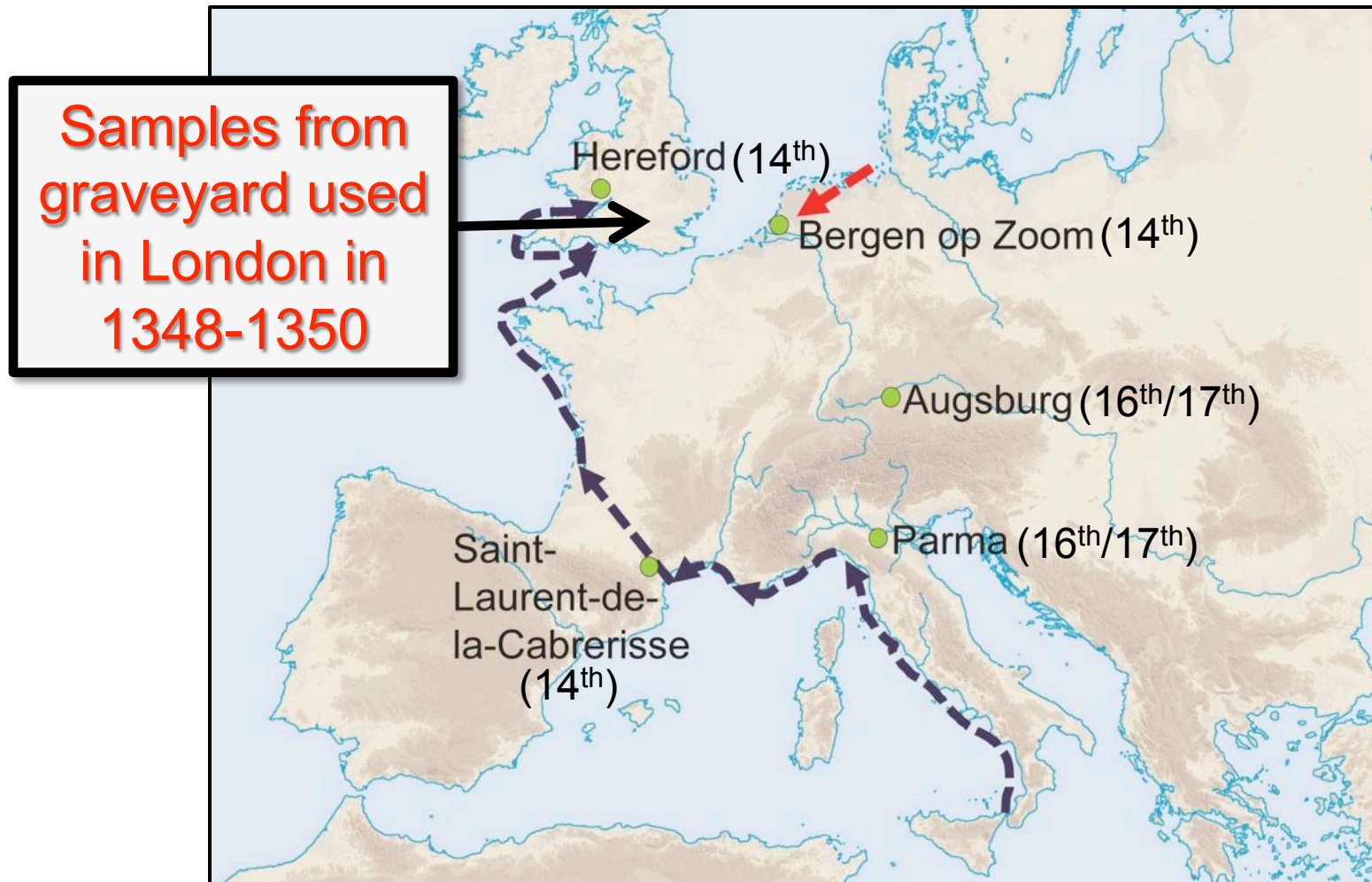
doi:10.1038/nature10549

# A draft genome of *Yersinia pestis* from victims of the Black Death

Kirsten I. Bos<sup>1\*</sup>, Verena I. Schuenemann<sup>2\*</sup>, G. Brian Golding<sup>3</sup>, Hernán A. Burbano<sup>4</sup>, Nicholas Waglechner<sup>5</sup>, Brian K. Coombes<sup>5</sup>, Joseph B. McPhee<sup>5</sup>, Sharon N. DeWitte<sup>6,7</sup>, Matthias Meyer<sup>4</sup>, Sarah Schmedes<sup>8</sup>, James Wood<sup>9</sup>, David J. D. Earn<sup>5,10</sup>, D. Ann Herring<sup>11</sup>, Peter Bauer<sup>12</sup>, Hendrik N. Poinar<sup>1,3,5</sup> & Johannes Krause<sup>2,12</sup>

NATURE 2011

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Plague Pandemic: 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries



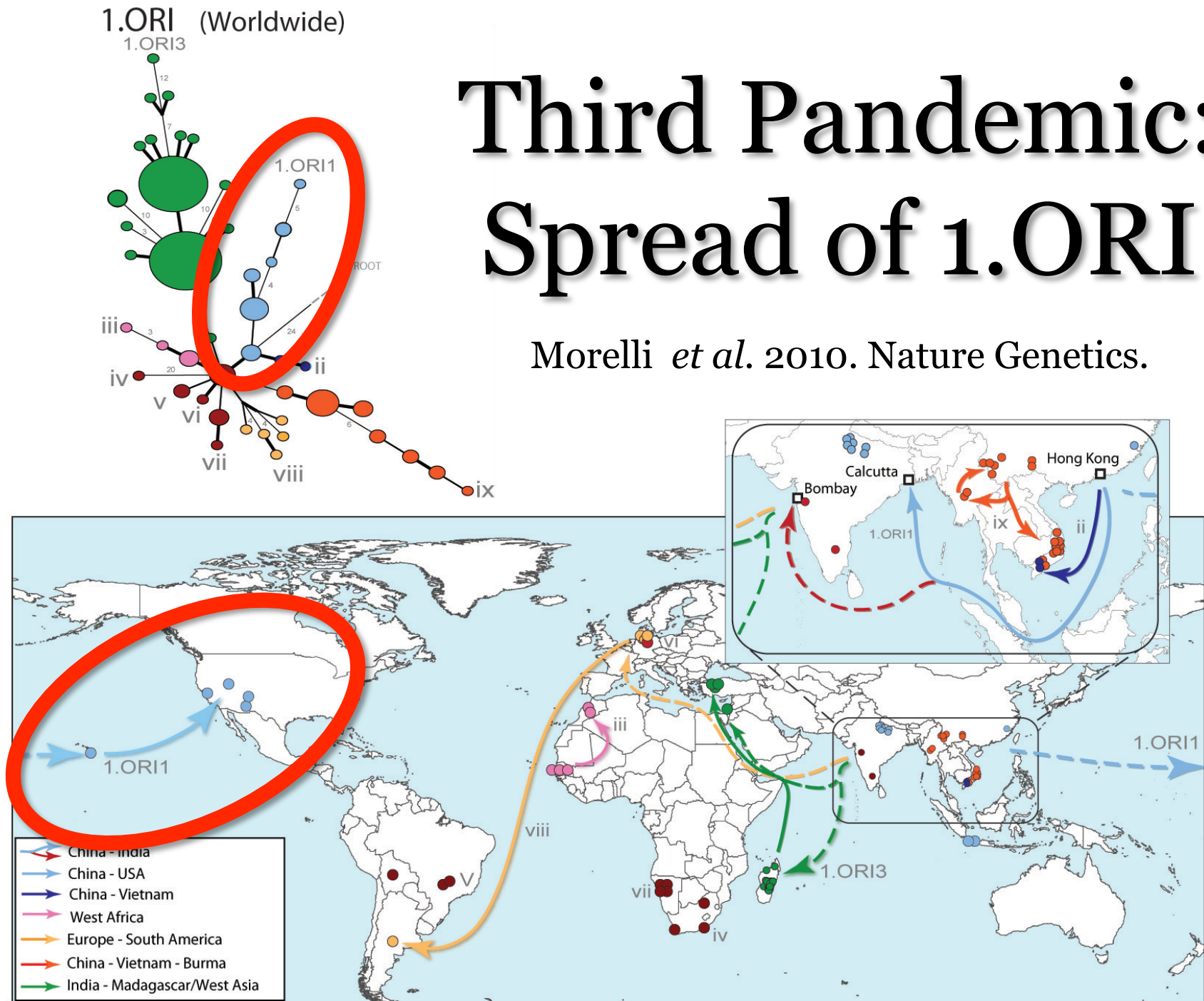
Bos *et al.* 2011. *Nature* 478:506-510



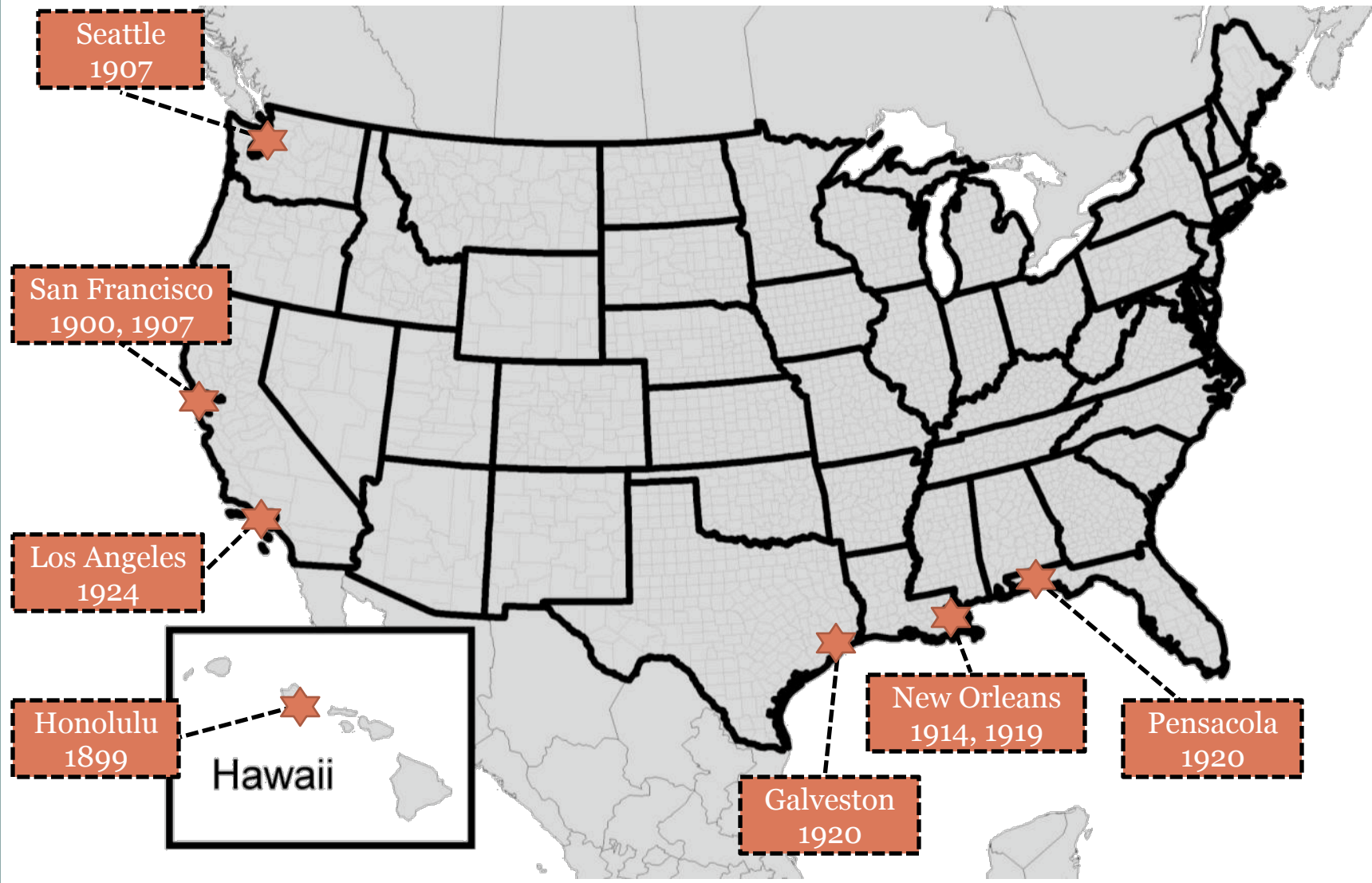


# Third Pandemic: Spread of 1.ORI

Morelli *et al.* 2010. Nature Genetics.



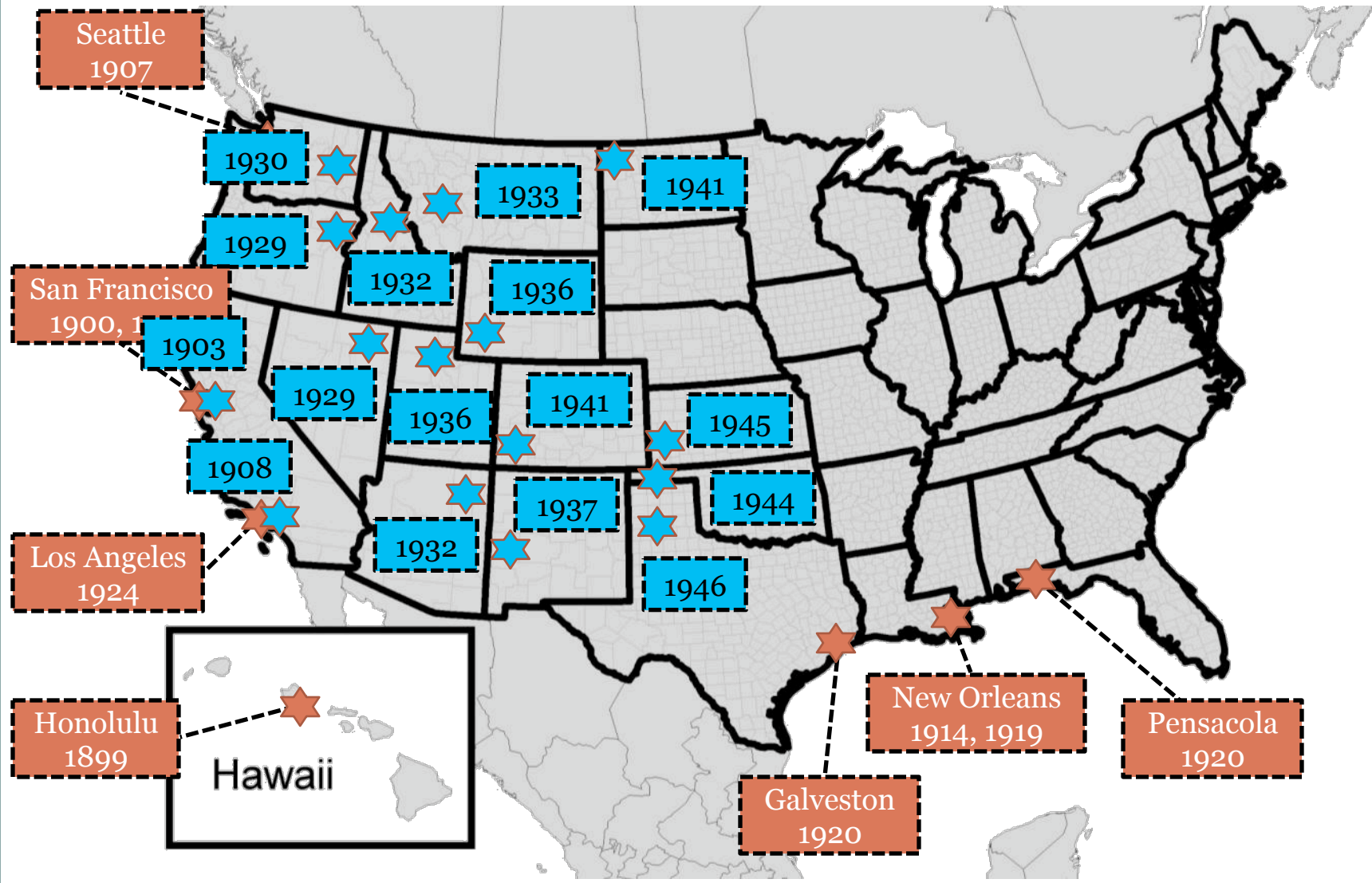
# Rat-borne Plague in Multiple Port Cities



Eskey and Haas, 1940; Pollitzer 1951; Link 1955

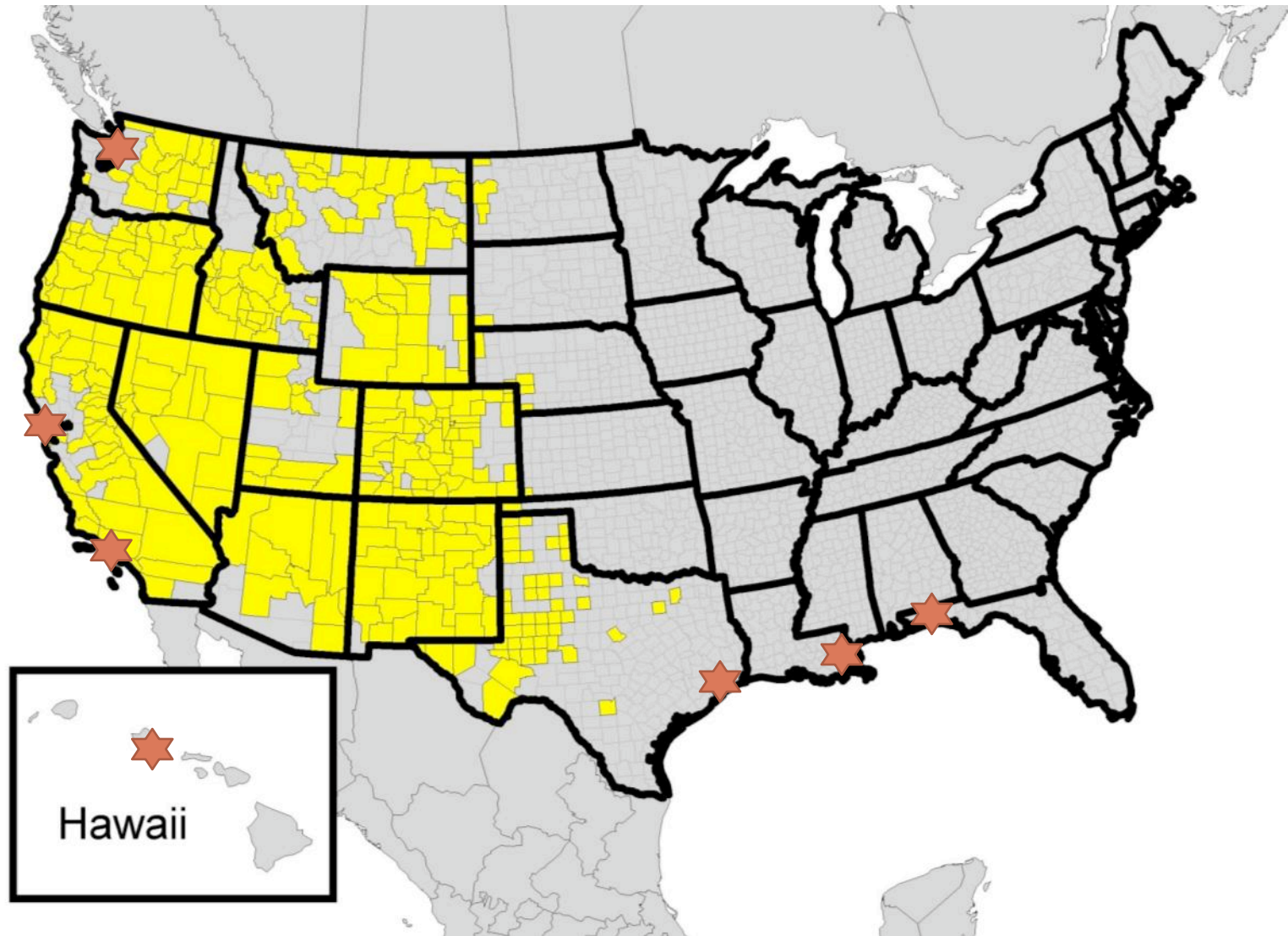


# Plague in Native Ground Squirrels



Eskey and Haas, 1940; Pollitzer 1951; Link 1955

# Plague is Now Endemic in the Western US



CDC occurrence data for 1970-2000 as compiled by Cully and Williams 2001

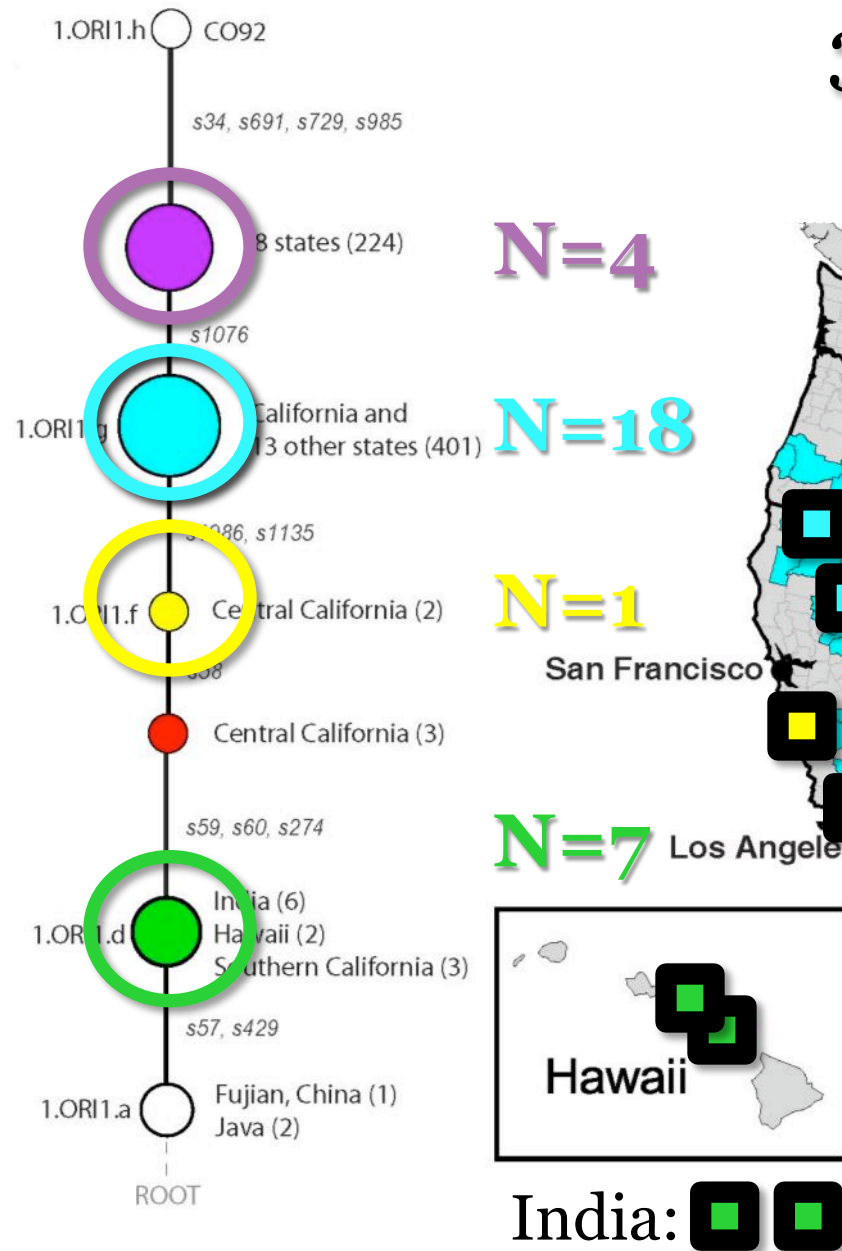
# Questions



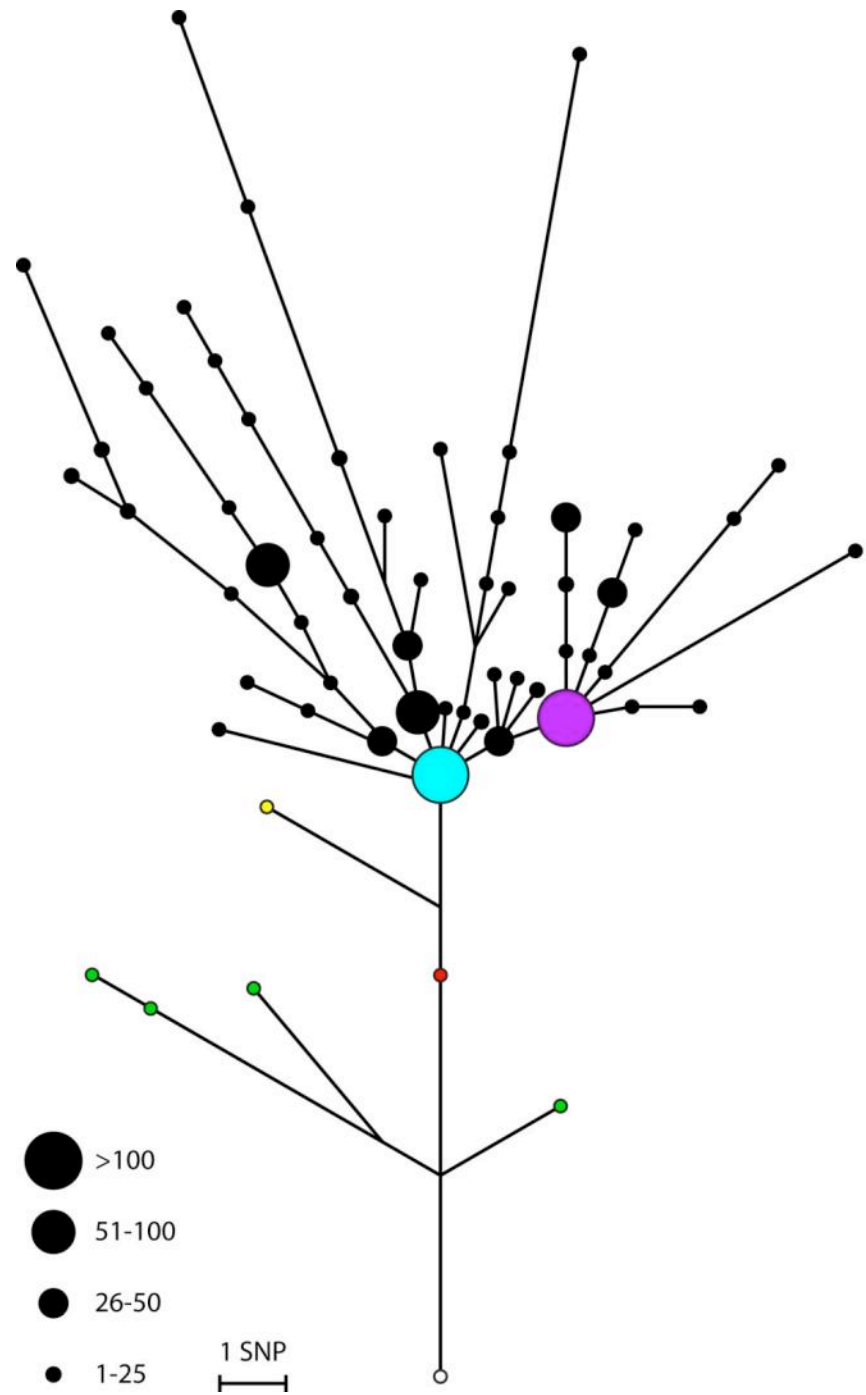
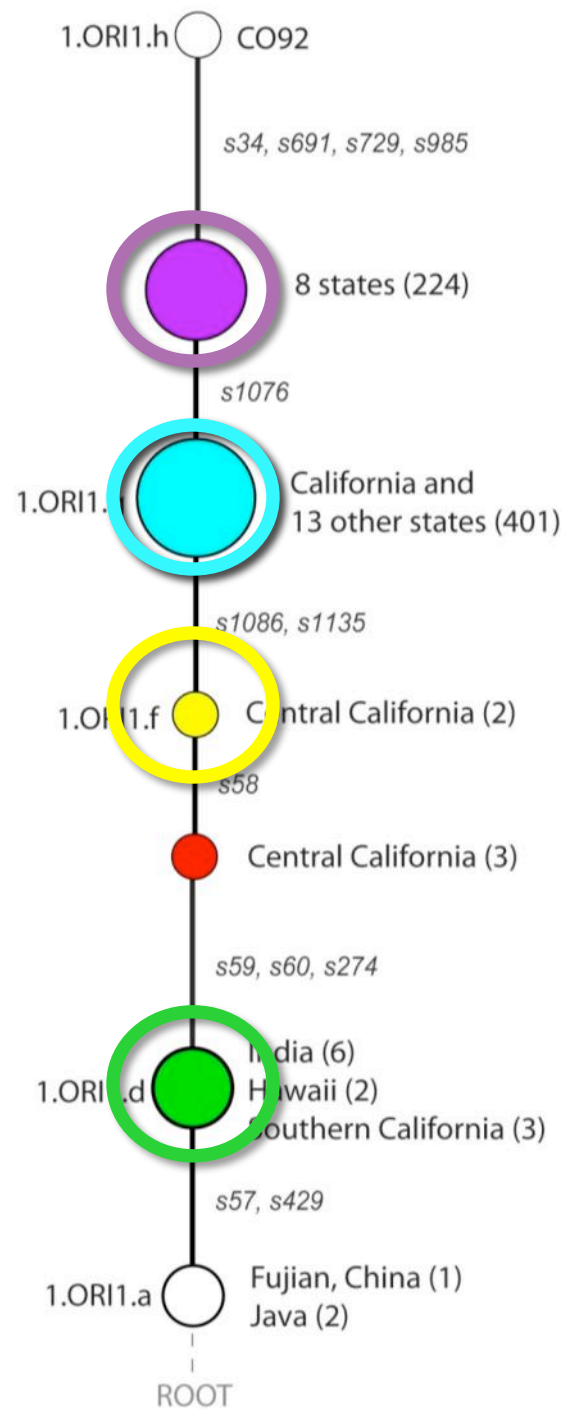
- How many times did plague cross over from non-native rodents to native rodents in the United States?
  - In other words, how many introductions were there in the United States?
- What is the population structure of *Yersinia pestis* in the United States?
  - Single wave of dominant clone? Multiple waves?

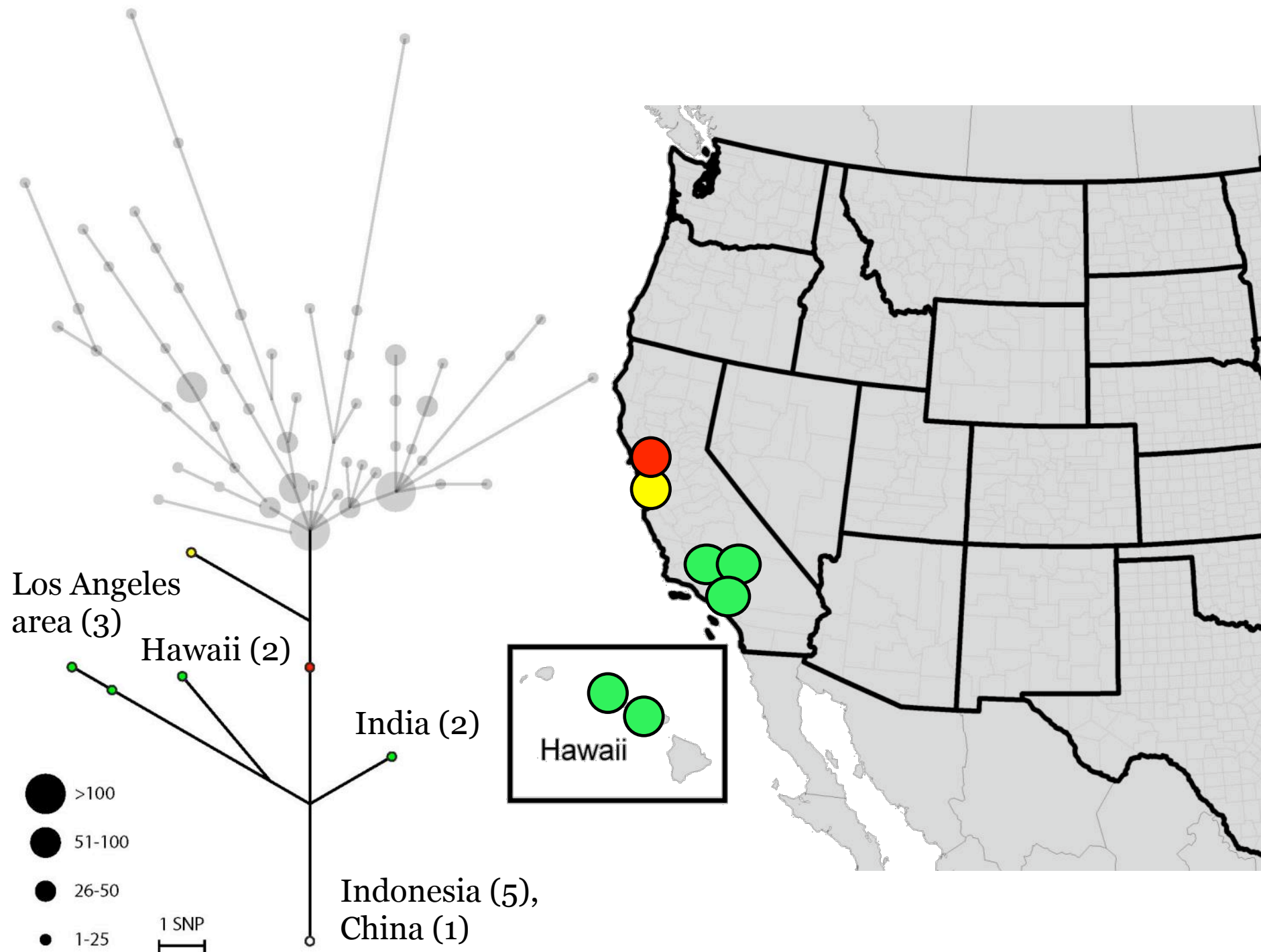


# 30 Next-Gen Sequences: 110 SNPs X 800 strains

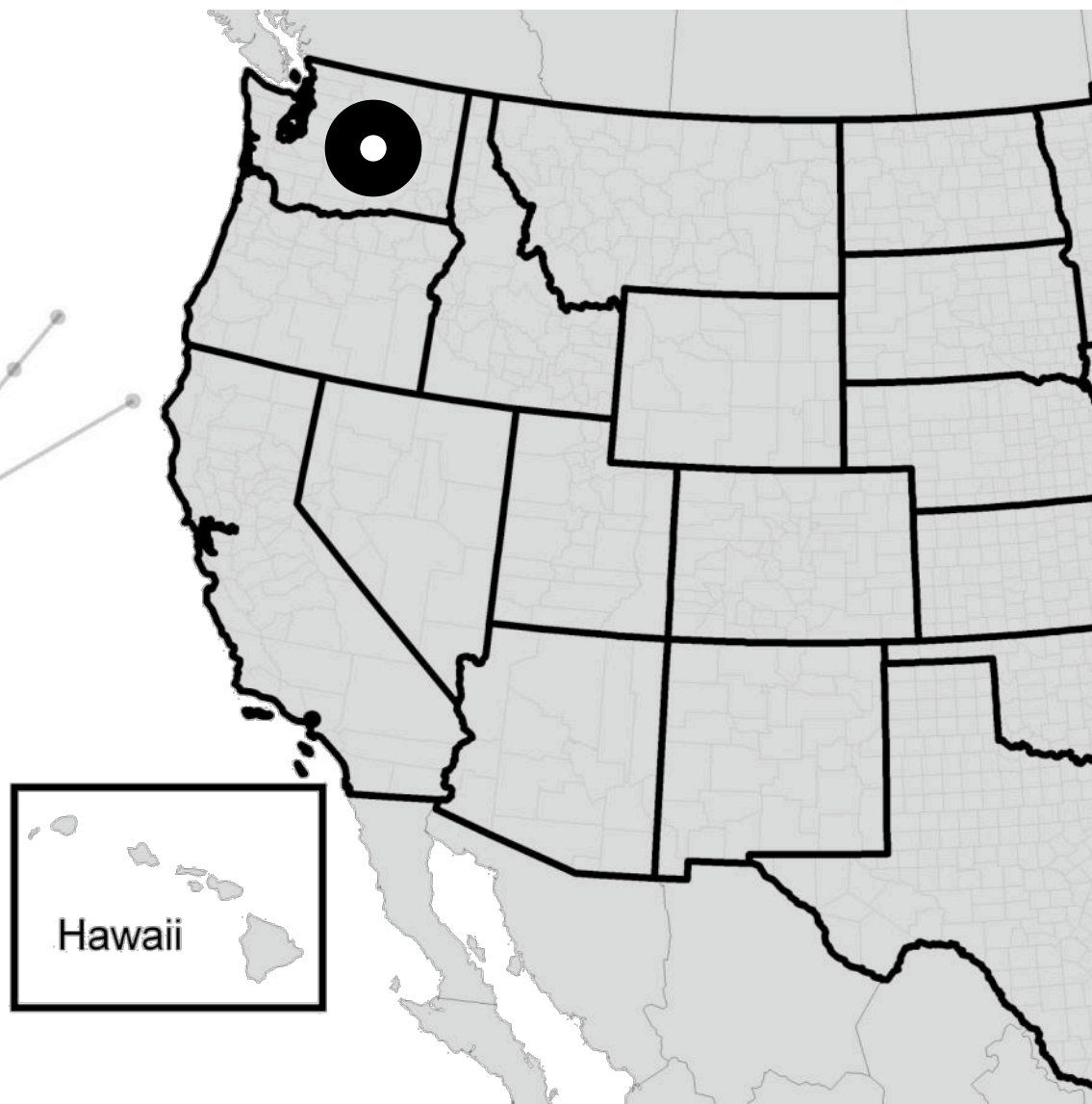
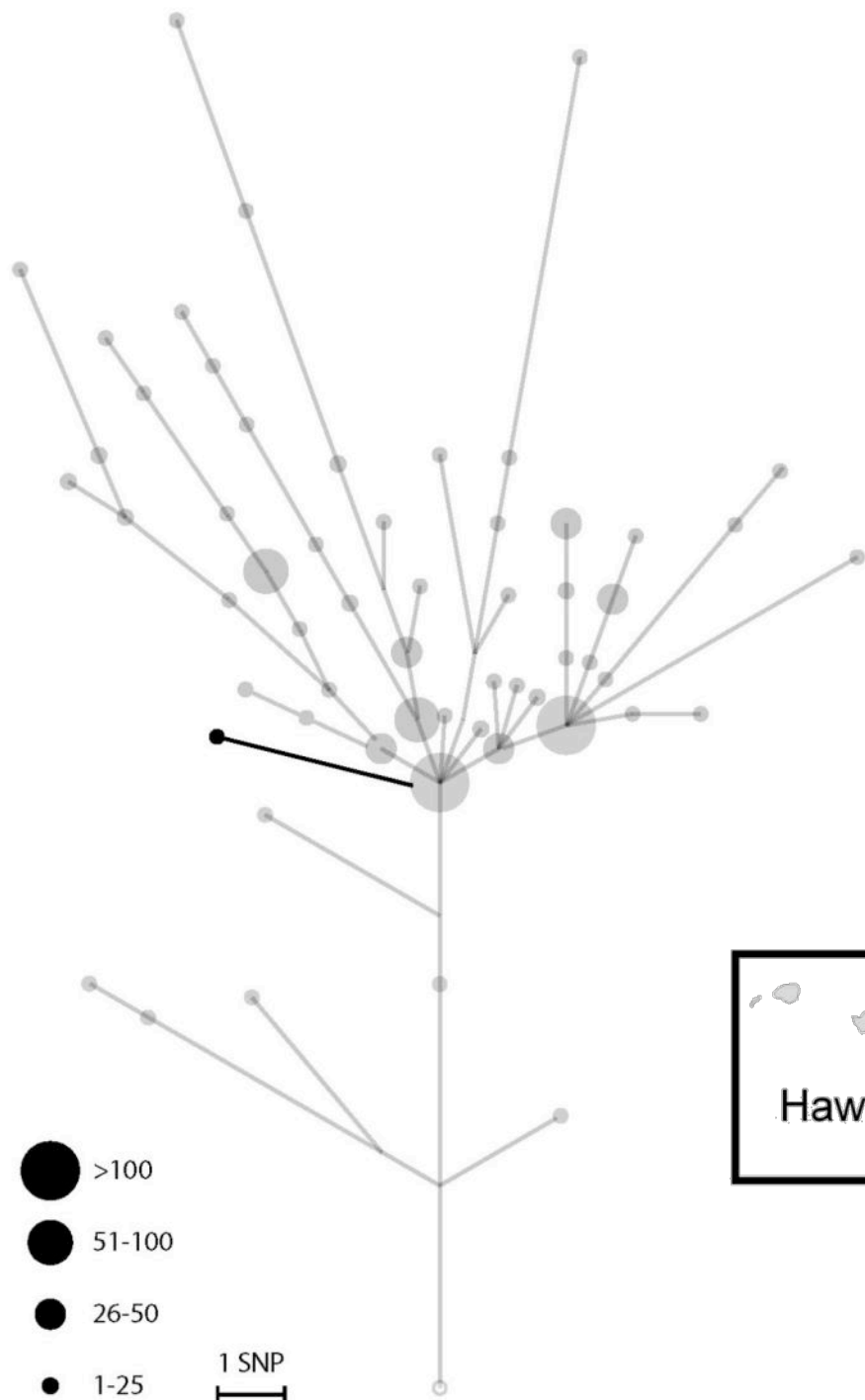


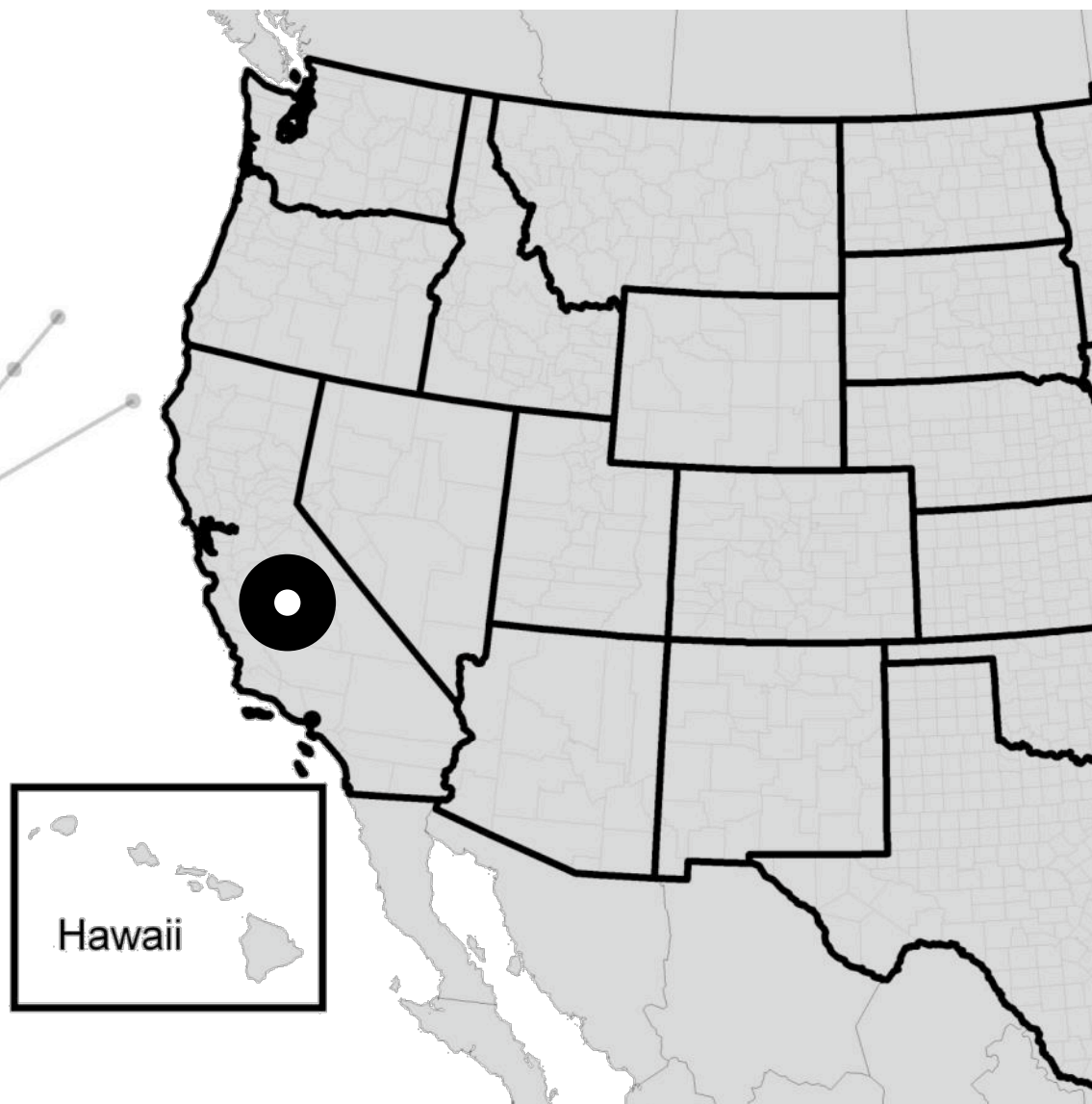
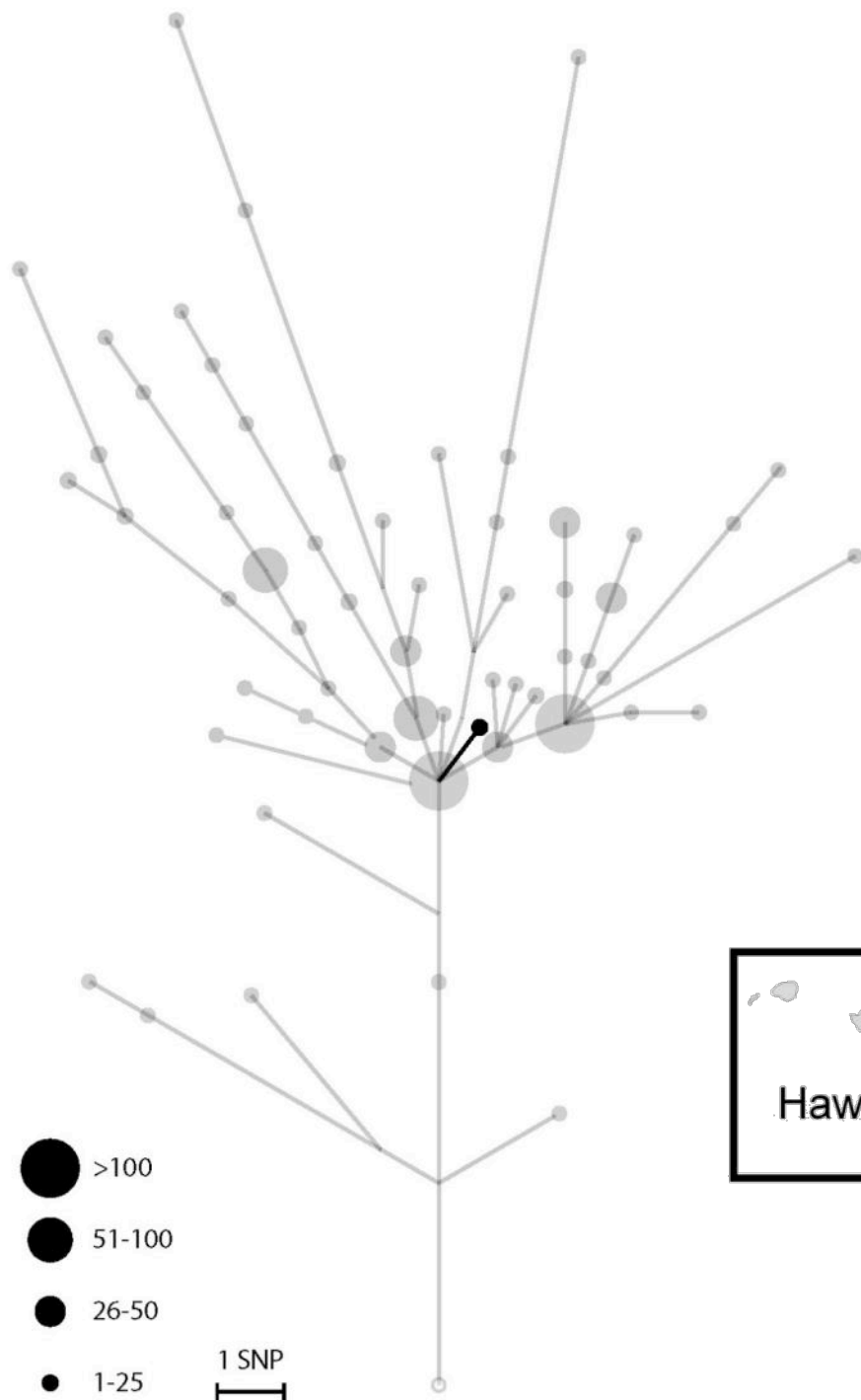
Morelli *et al.* 2010. Nature Genetics.

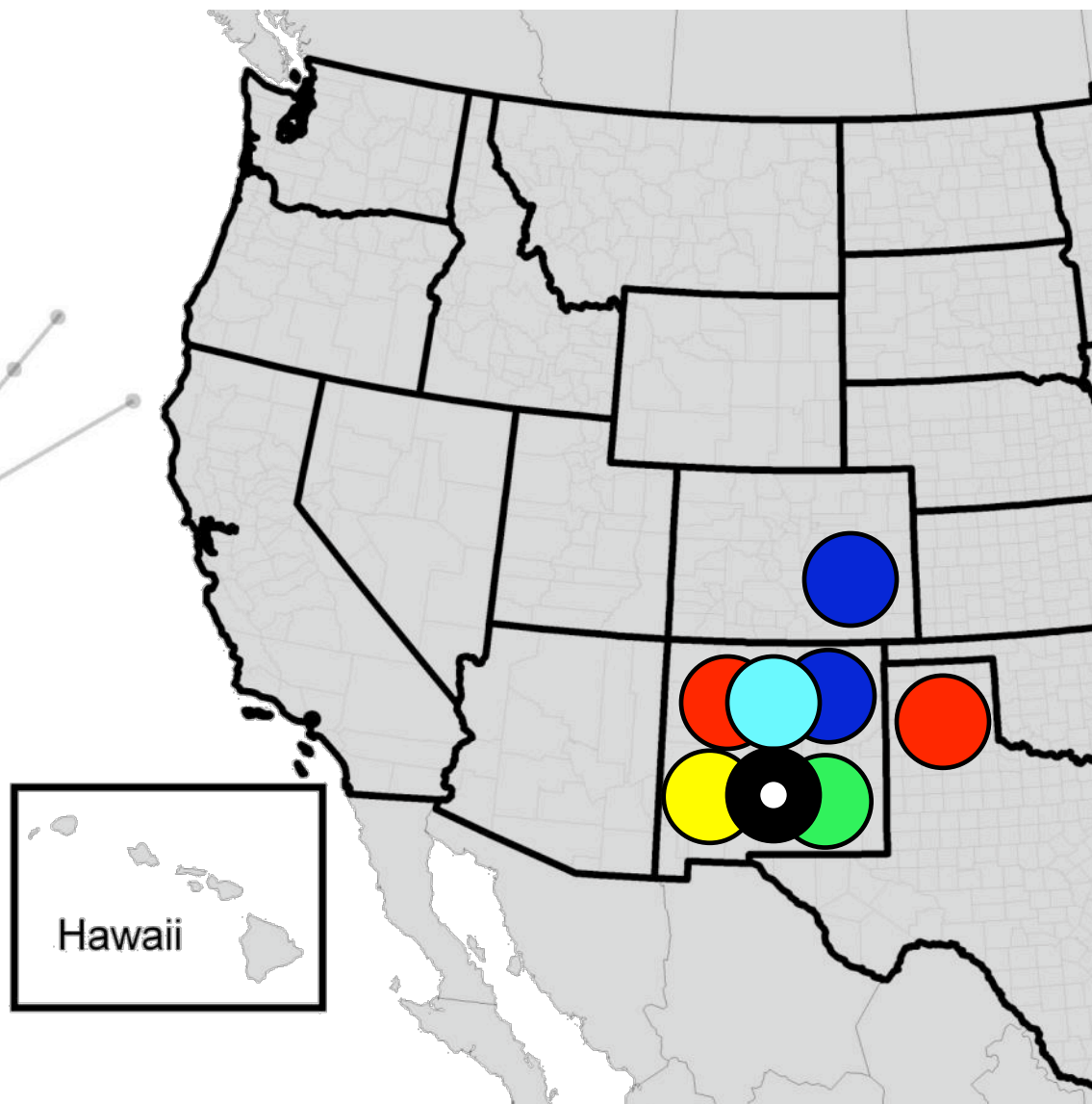
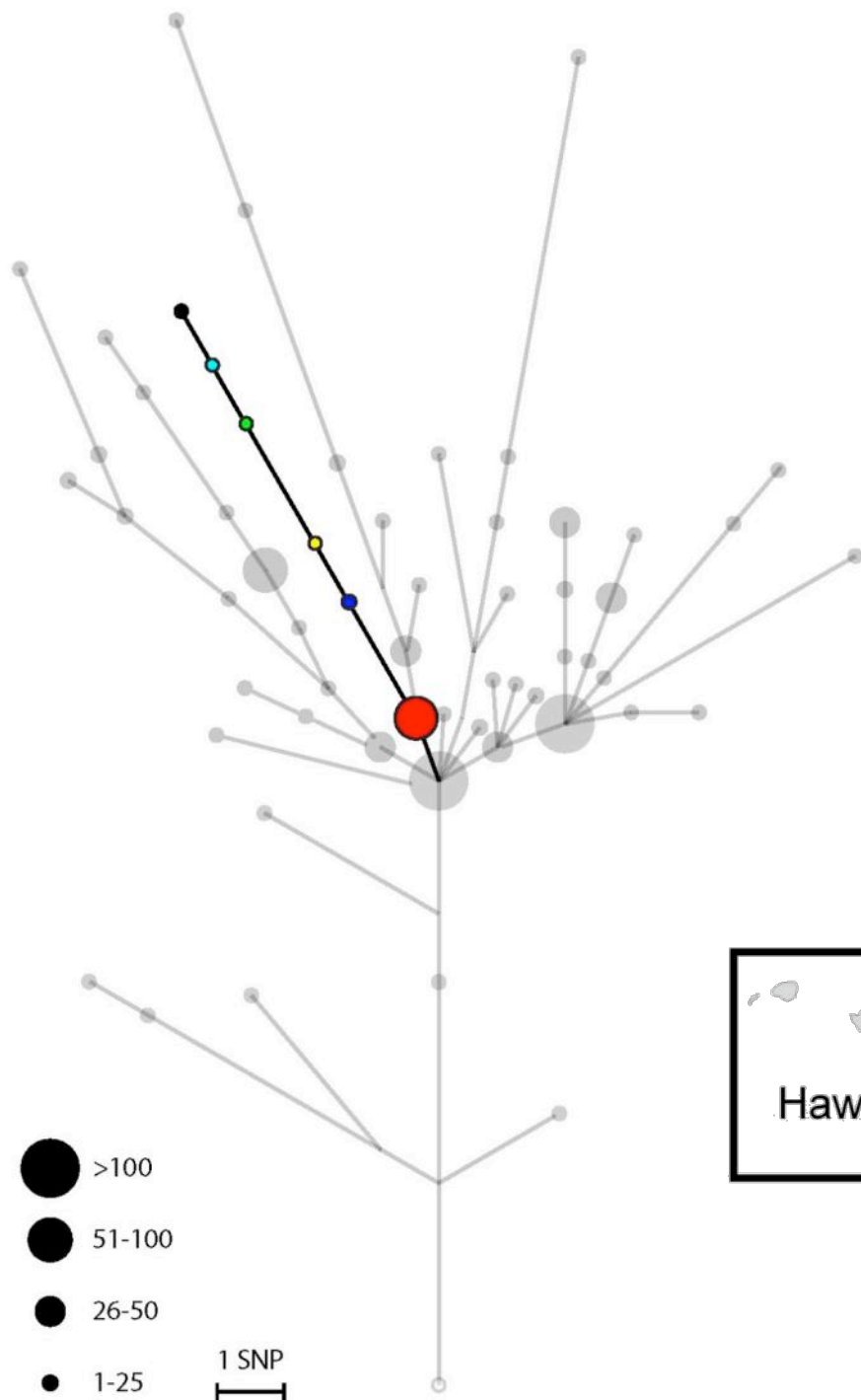




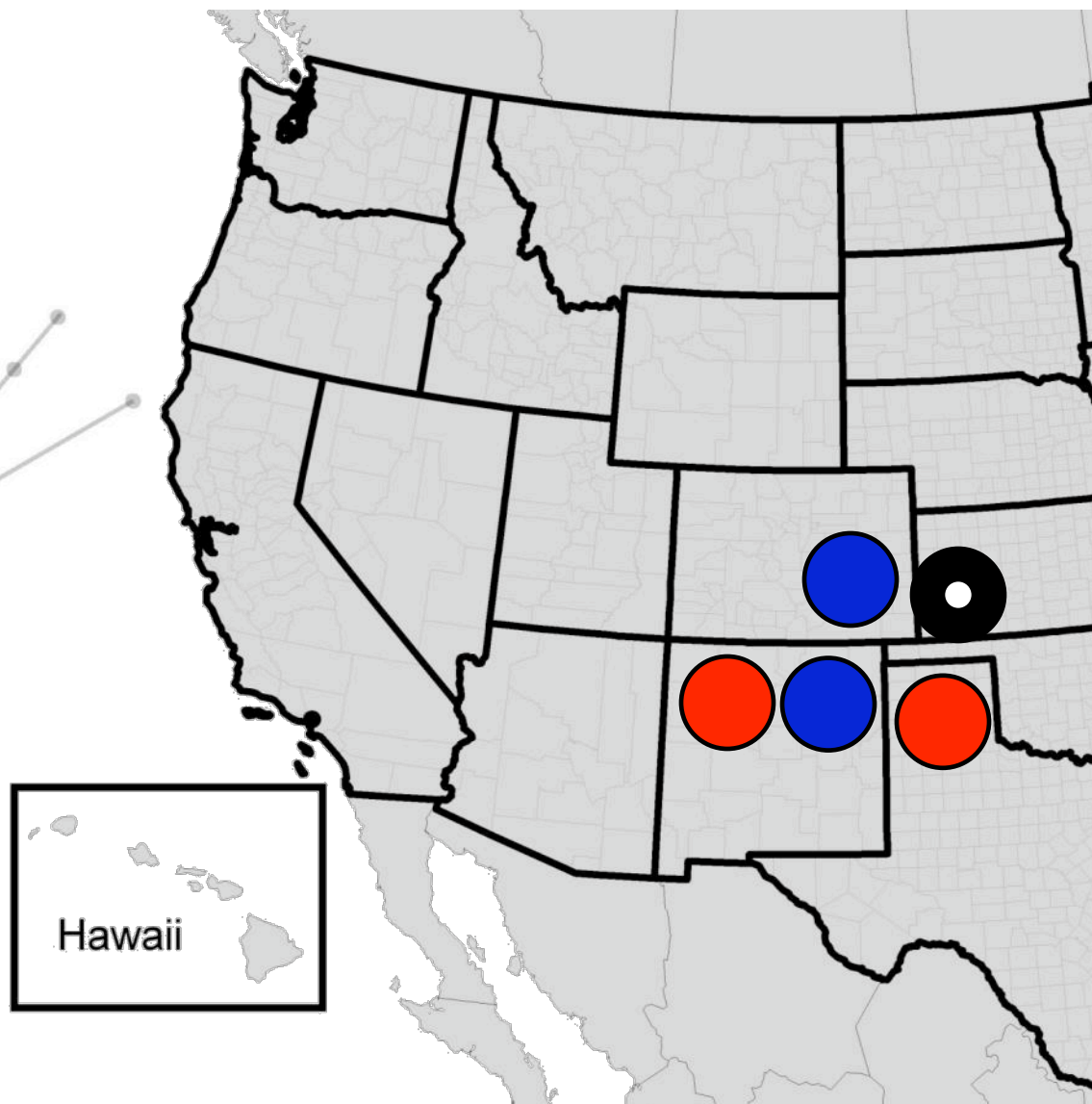
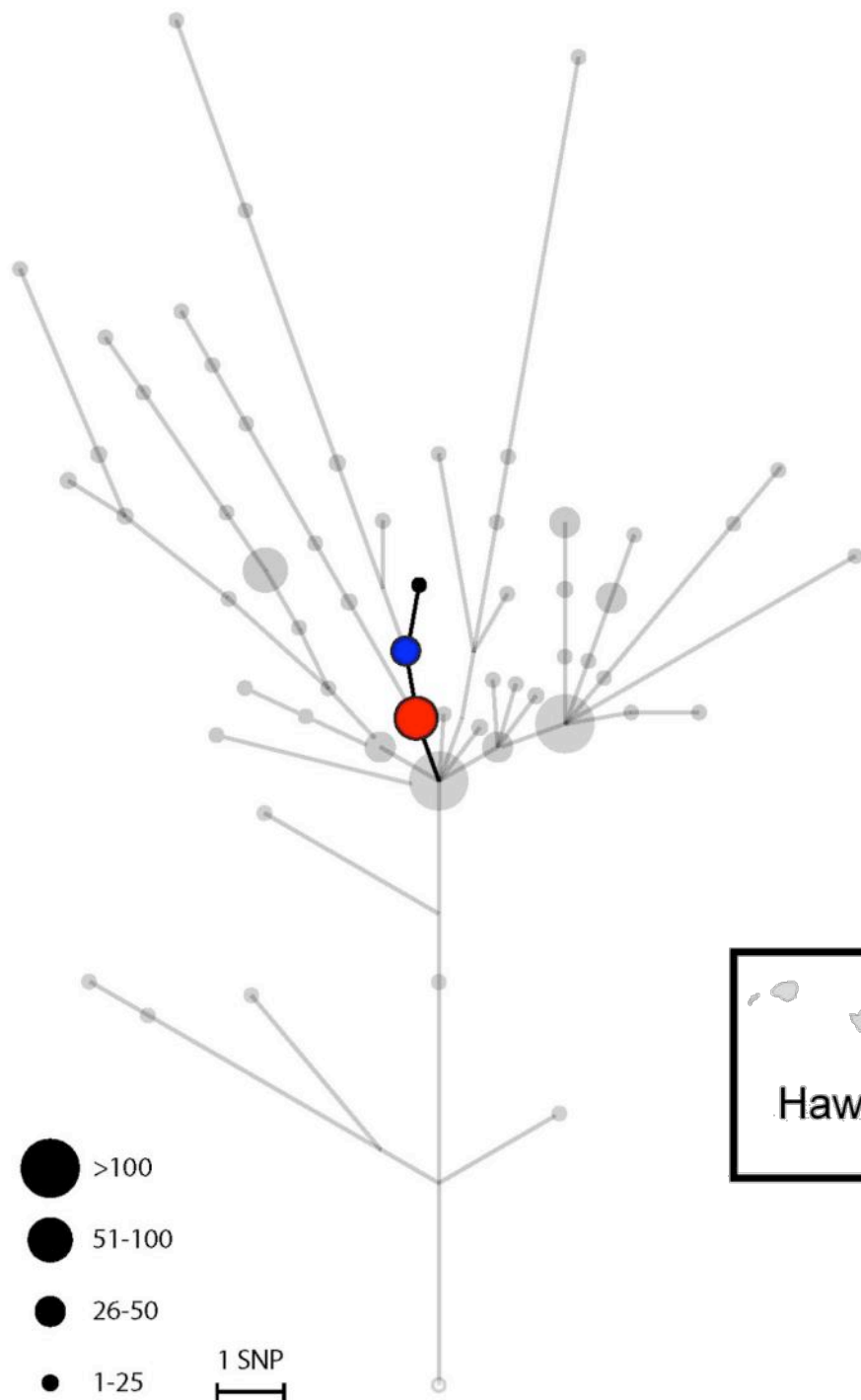


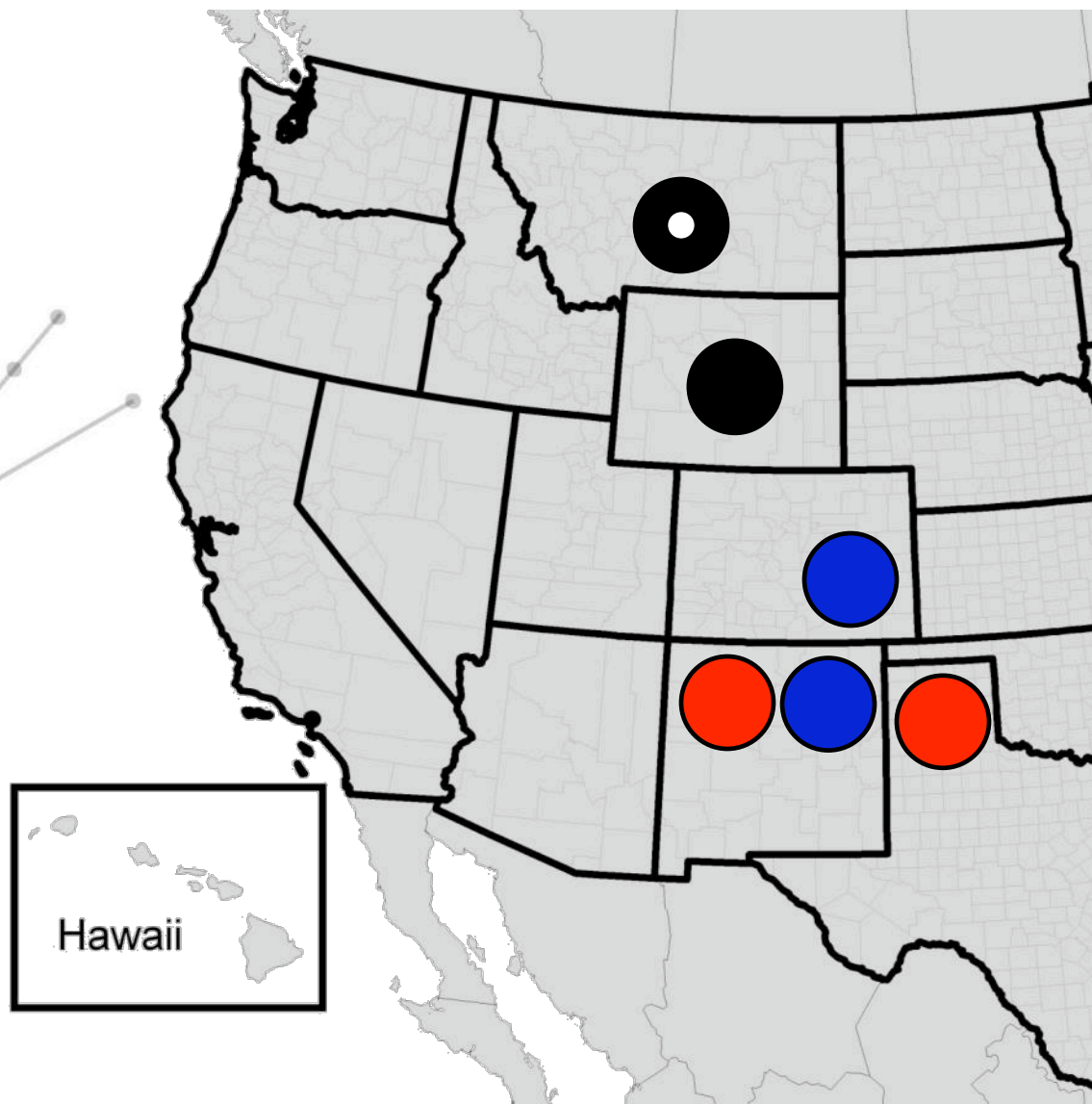
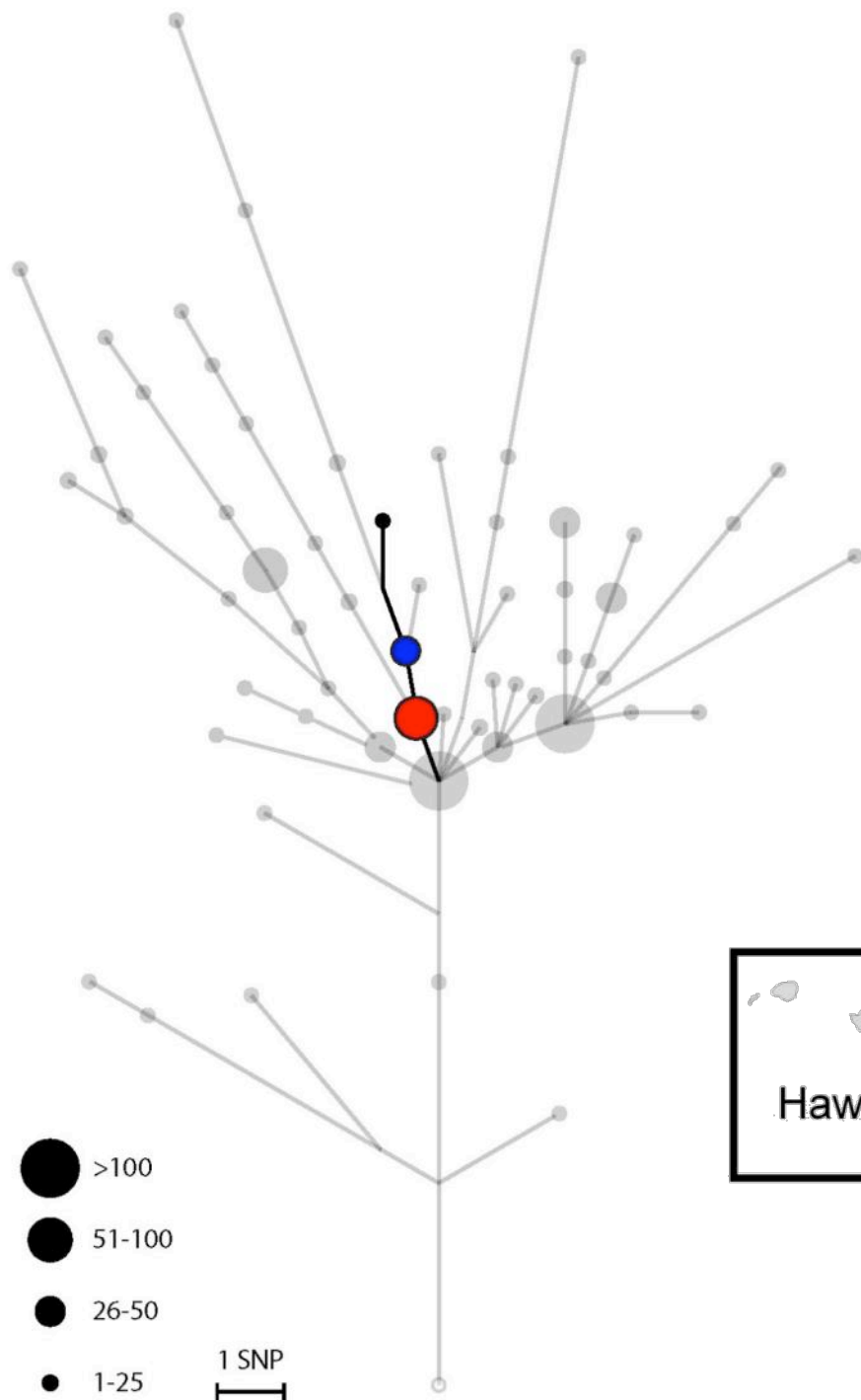


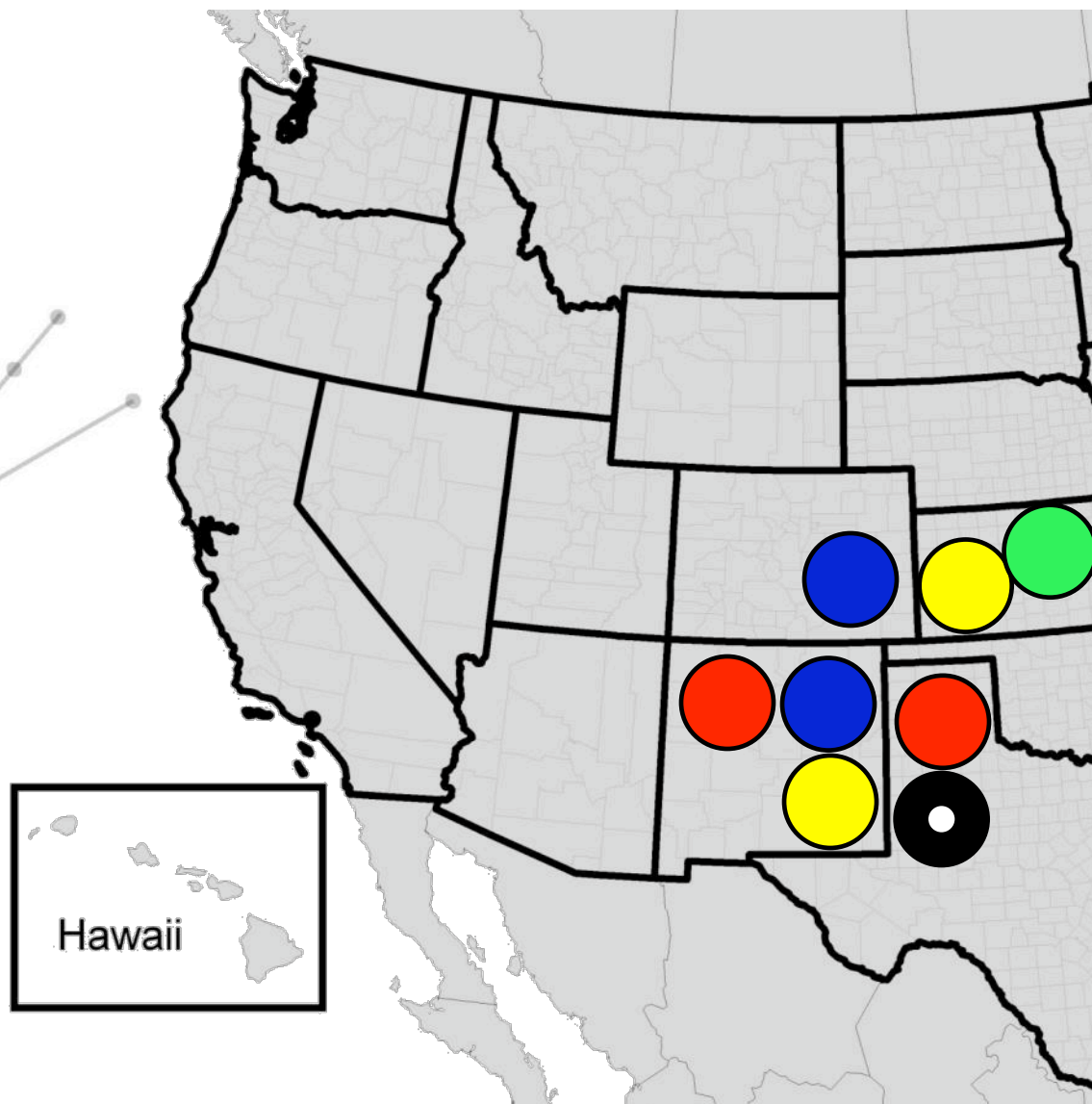
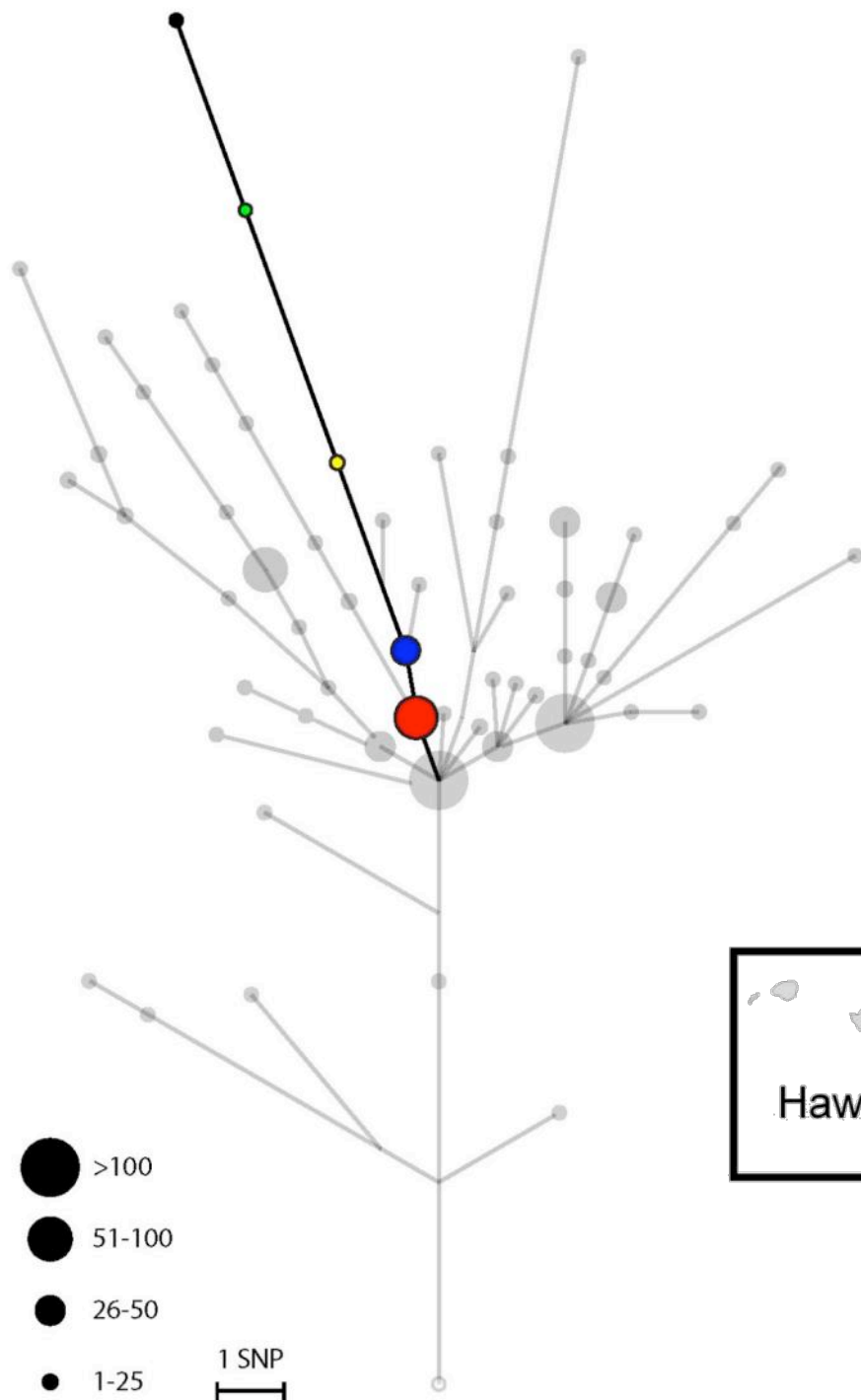














# Conclusions: Continental USA



- Just one or maybe two introductions to native rodents
- No evidence for a selective sweep
  - Rather, star phylogeny originating from California
  - Suggests no adaptive benefits for any given lineage
- Evidence for rapid, complex dispersal
  - Many populations found in multiple states
  - Movement to the east but also back to the west
  - Representatives of diverse populations in same locality
- Question: How did plague spread so quickly in the US?

June 1, 2004 | vol. 101 | no. 22 | pp. 8255–8508

# PNAS

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America

[www.pnas.org](http://www.pnas.org)

## Mutation-rate model for assessing plague transmission patterns

Dynamic processivity of phage DNA polymerase

Spin labeling reveals protein interaction with membrane

Comparative biology and evolution of proteomes

Increasing photoreceptor cell survival with lipids

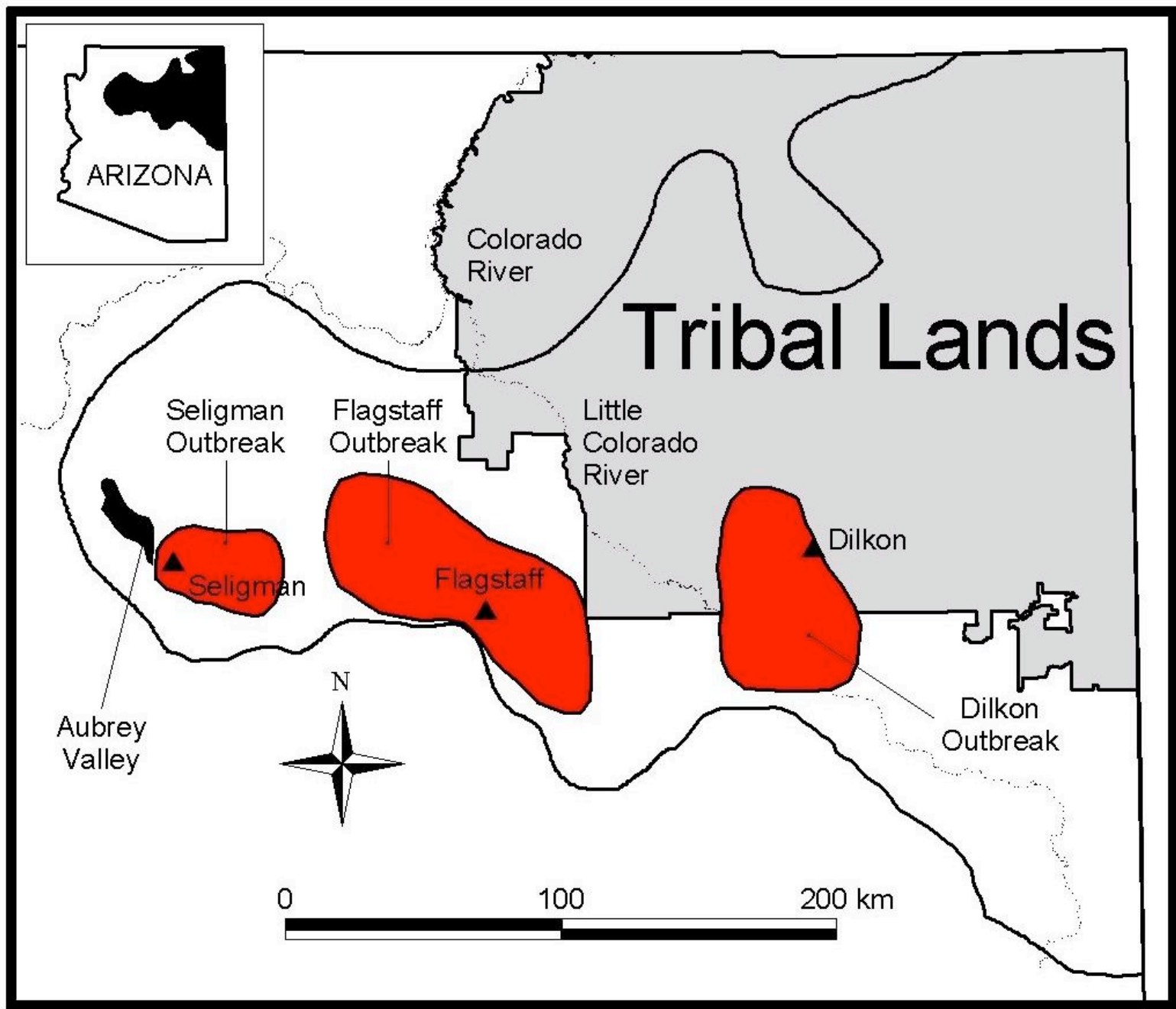




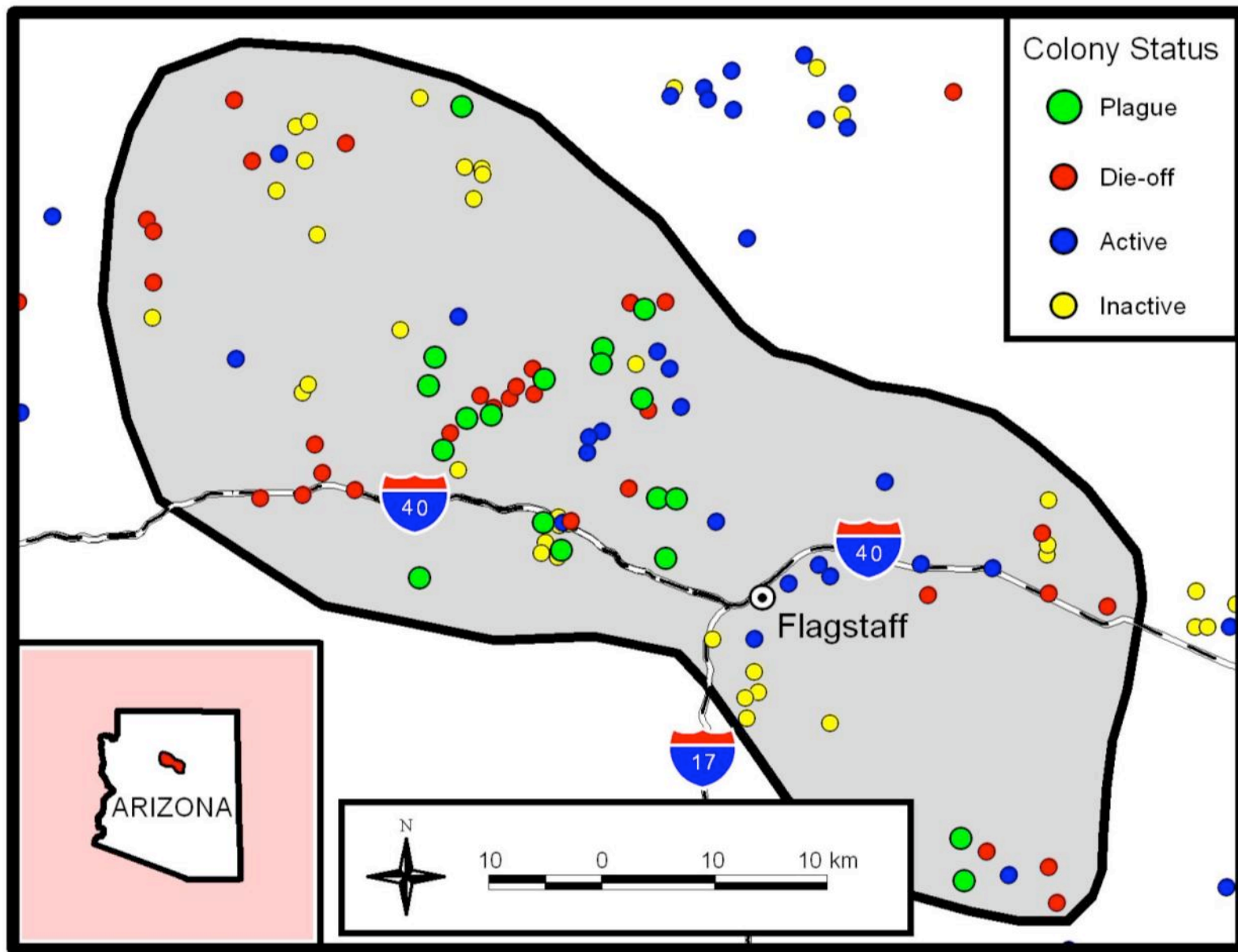






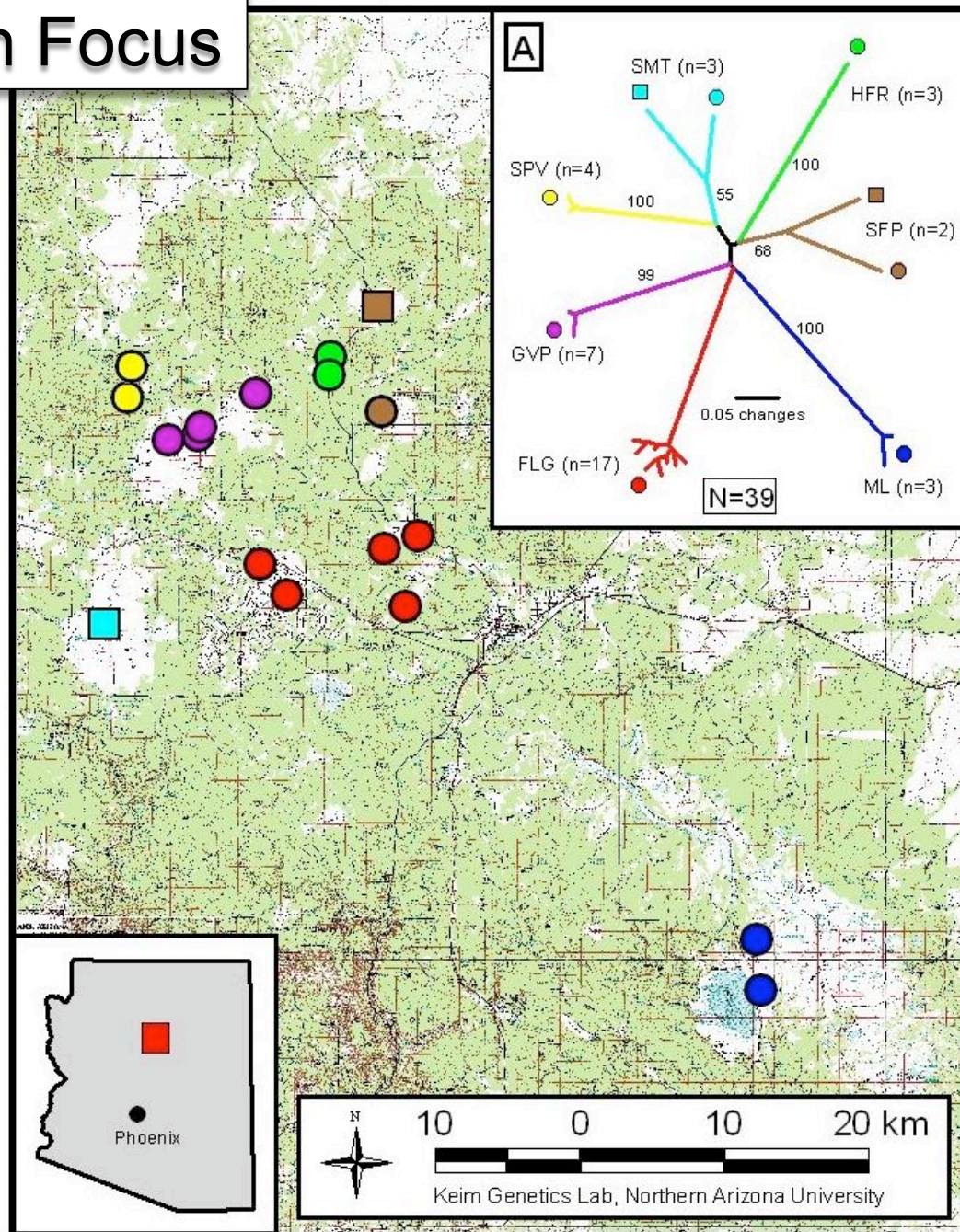




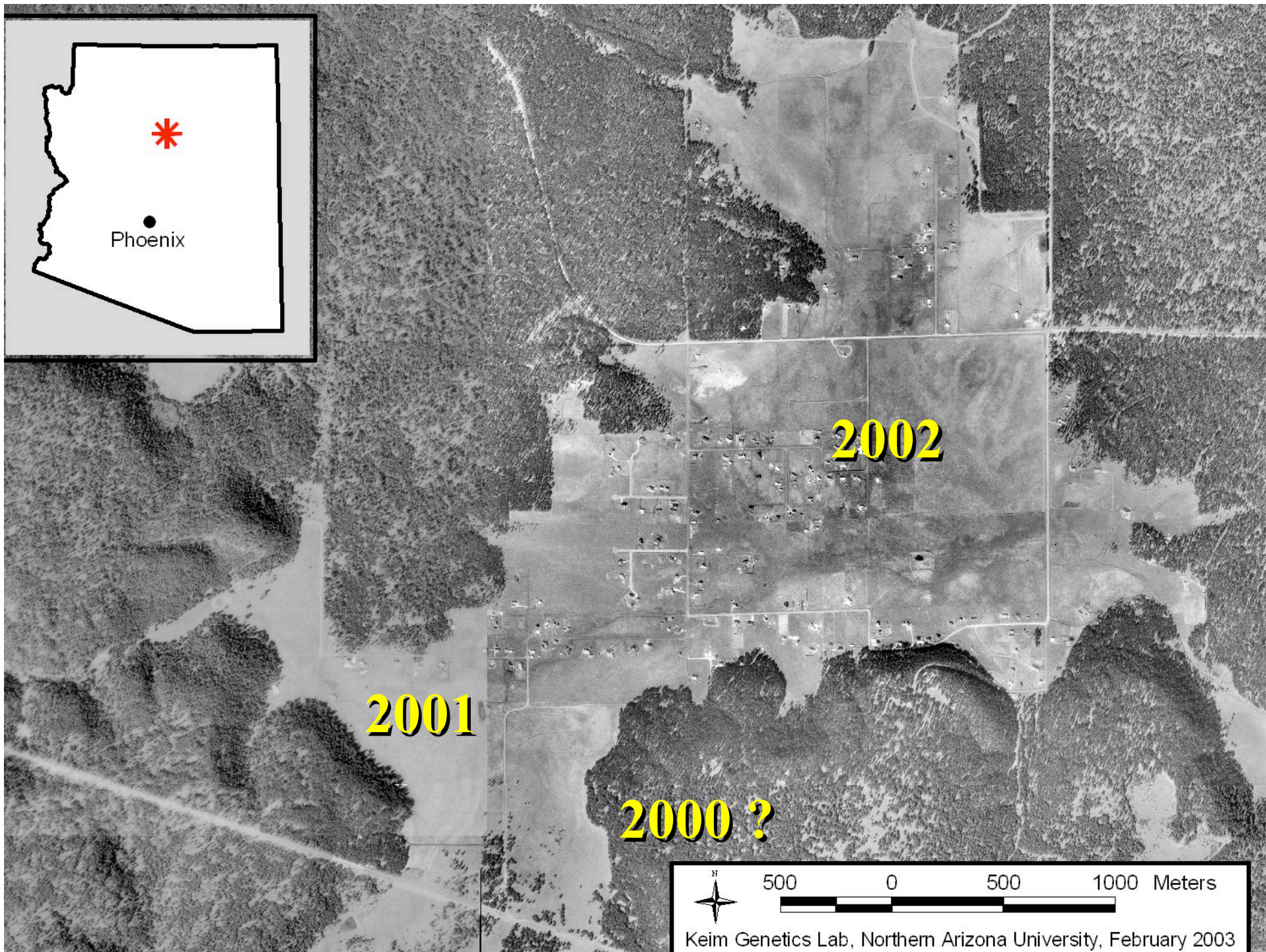


Wagner *et al.* 2004. PNAS.

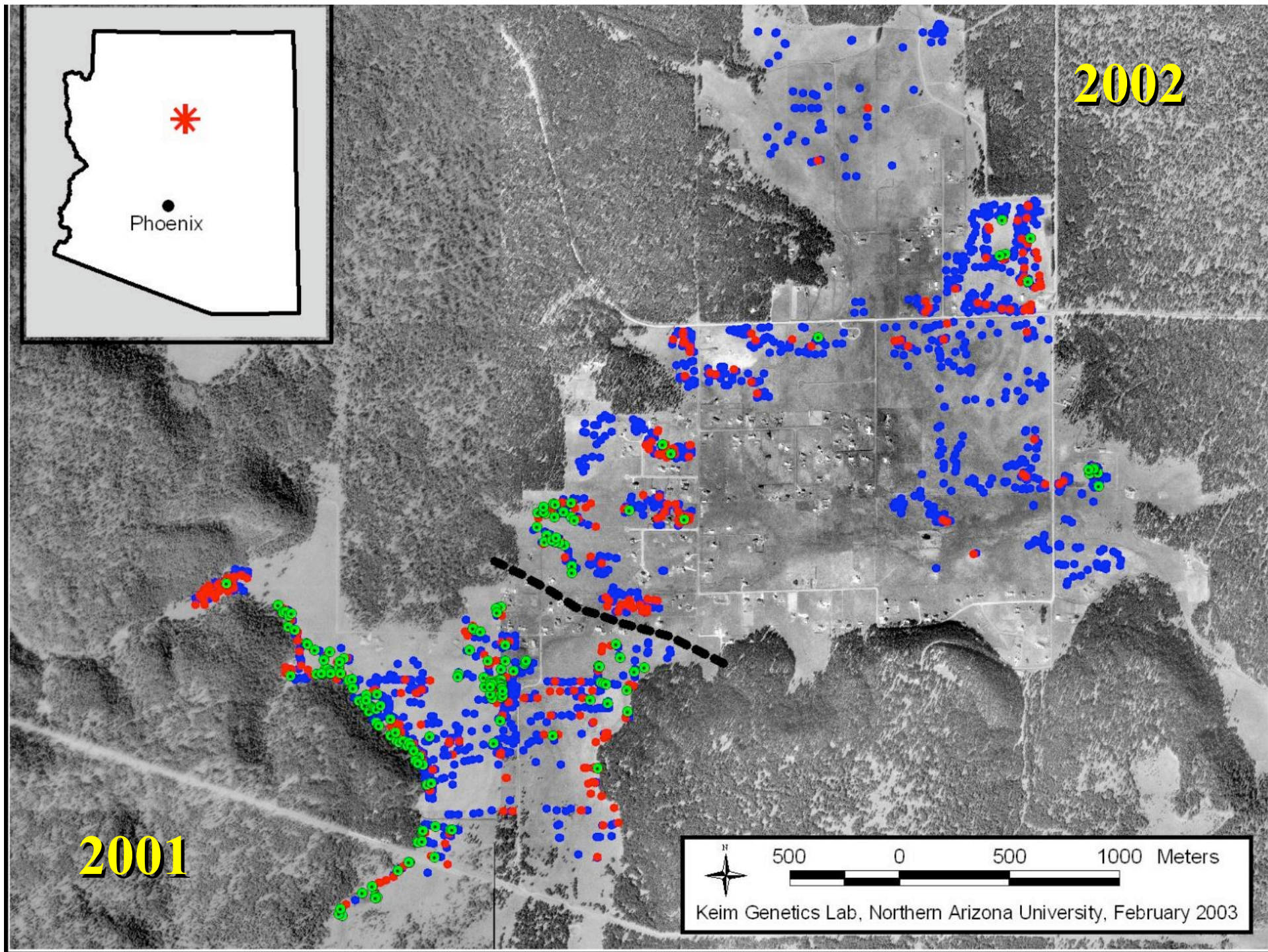
# 50+ Season Focus





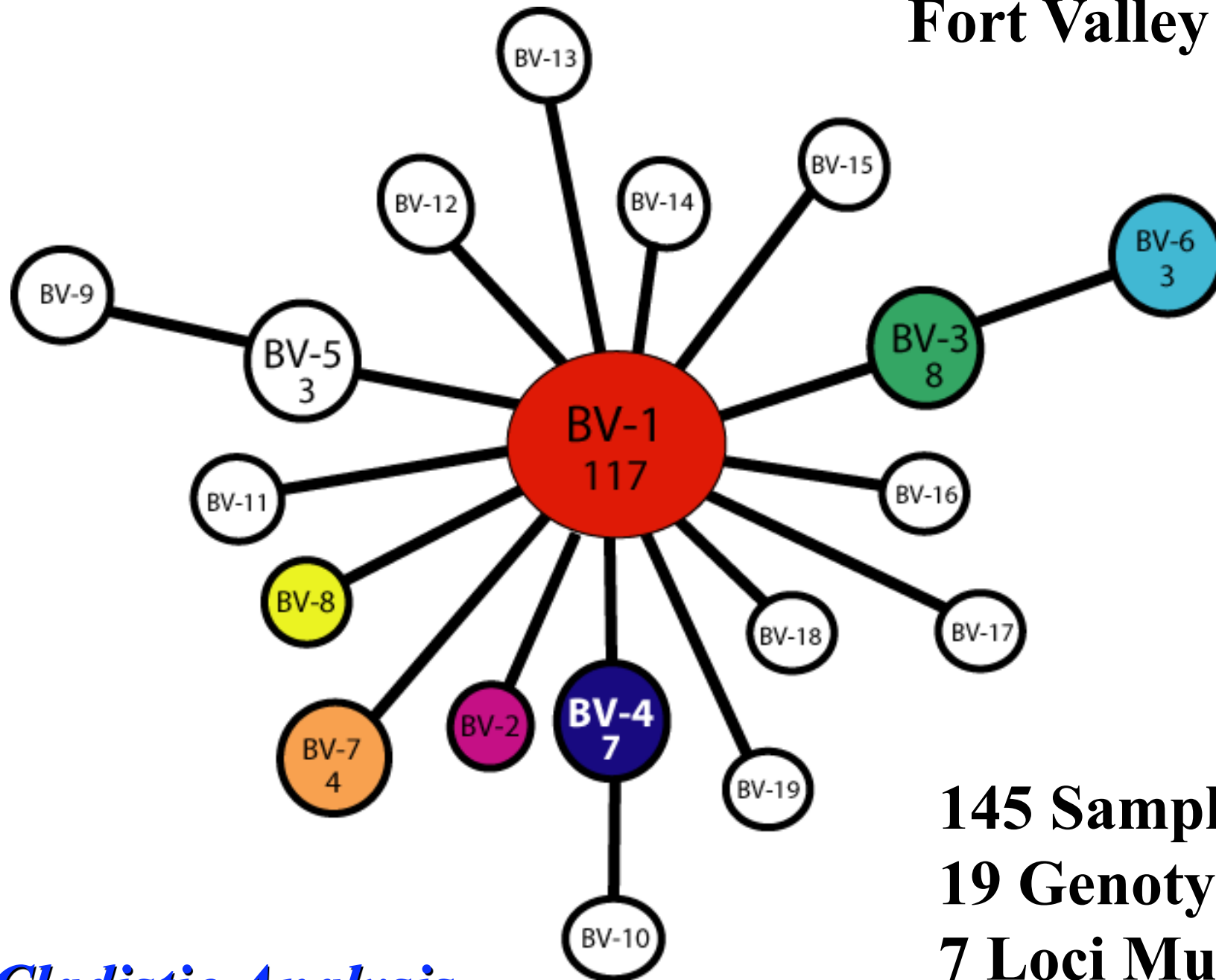








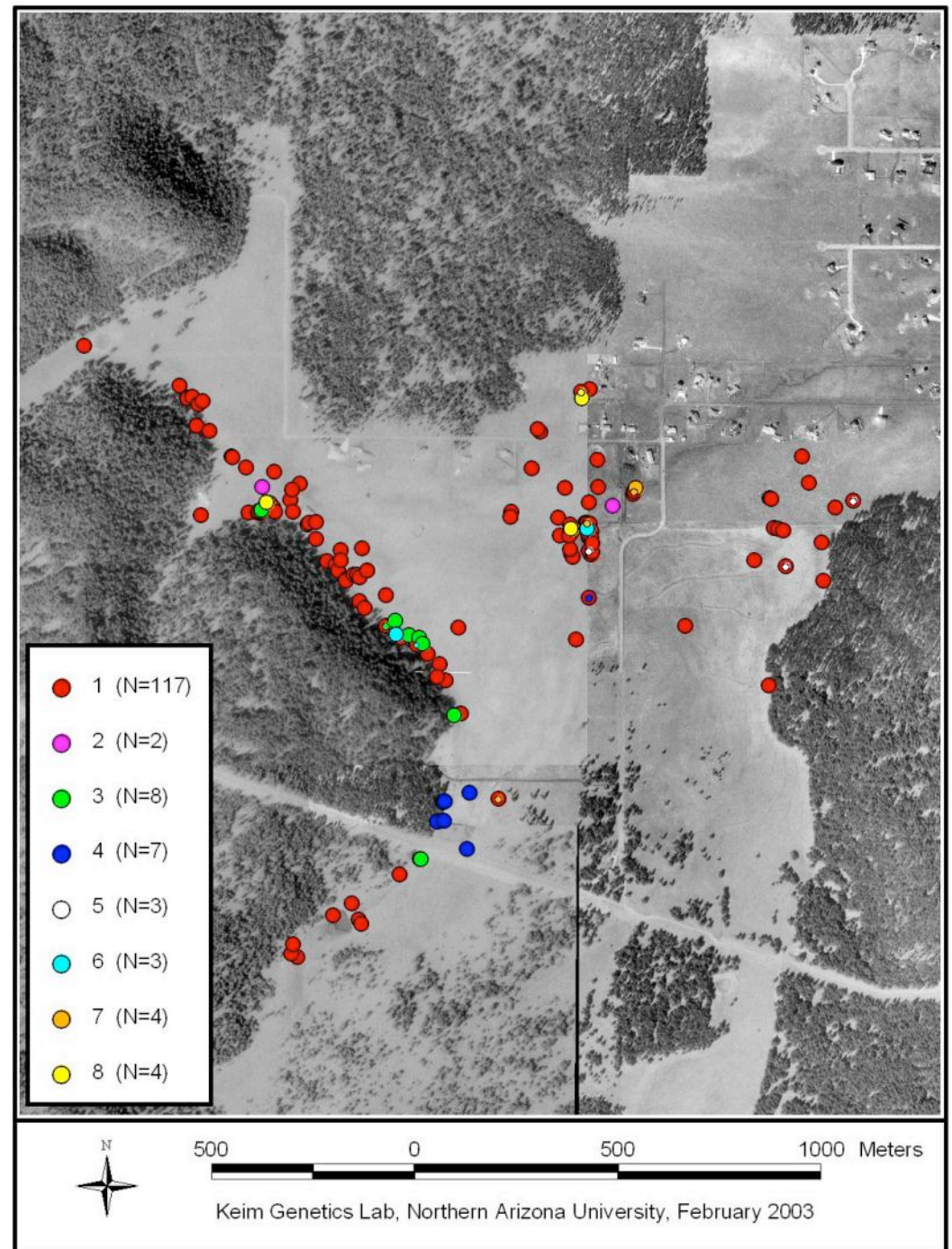
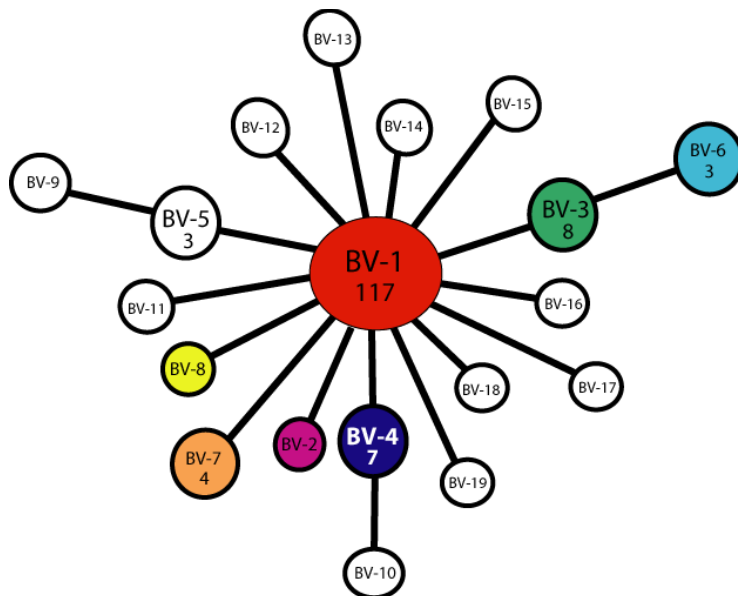
# Fort Valley 2001



**145 Samples**  
**19 Genotypes**  
**7 Loci Mutated**

*Cladistic Analysis*

# Plague Genotype Distribution *Fort Valley, AZ* *2001*

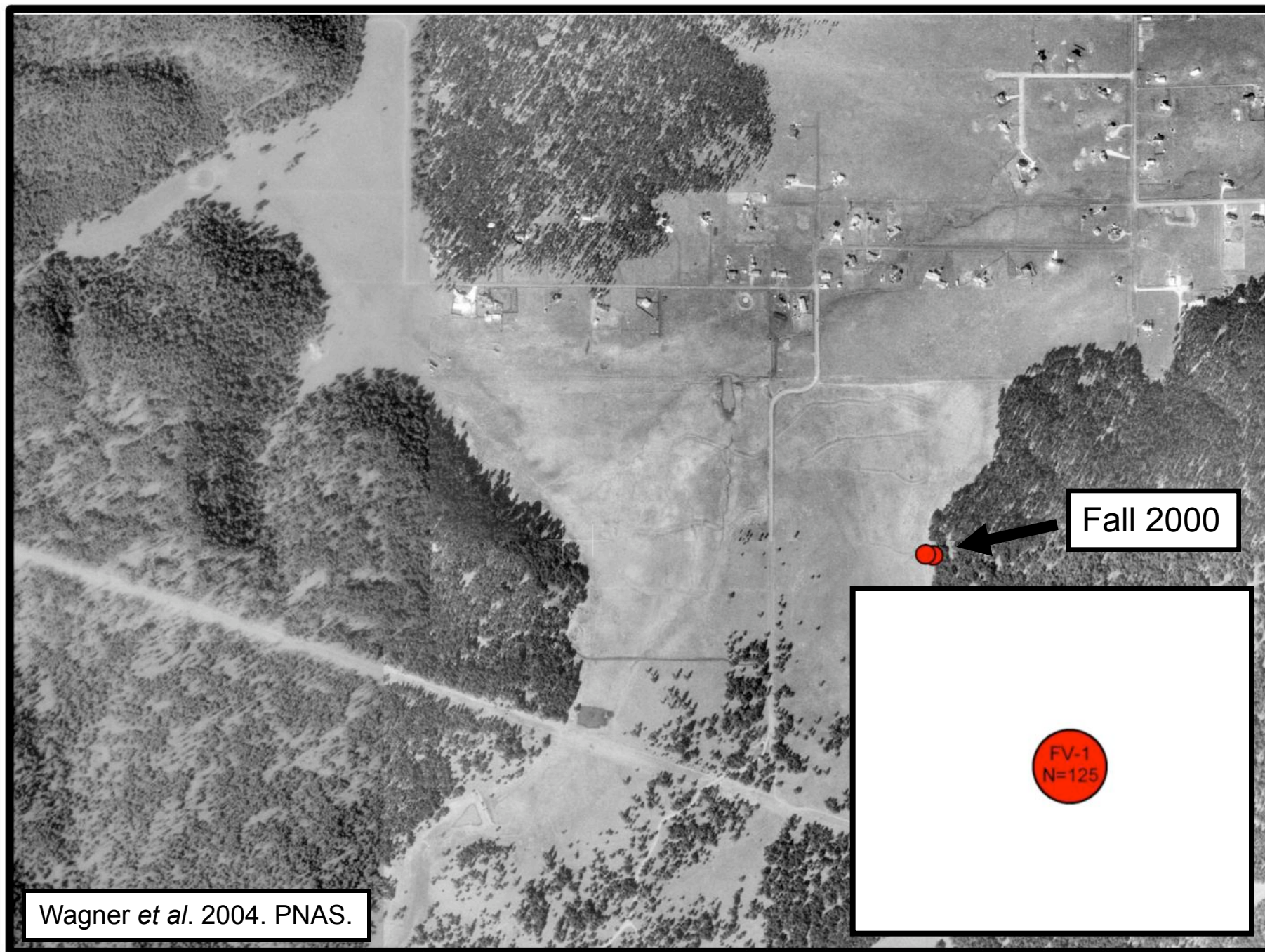






Wagner *et al.* 2004. PNAS.





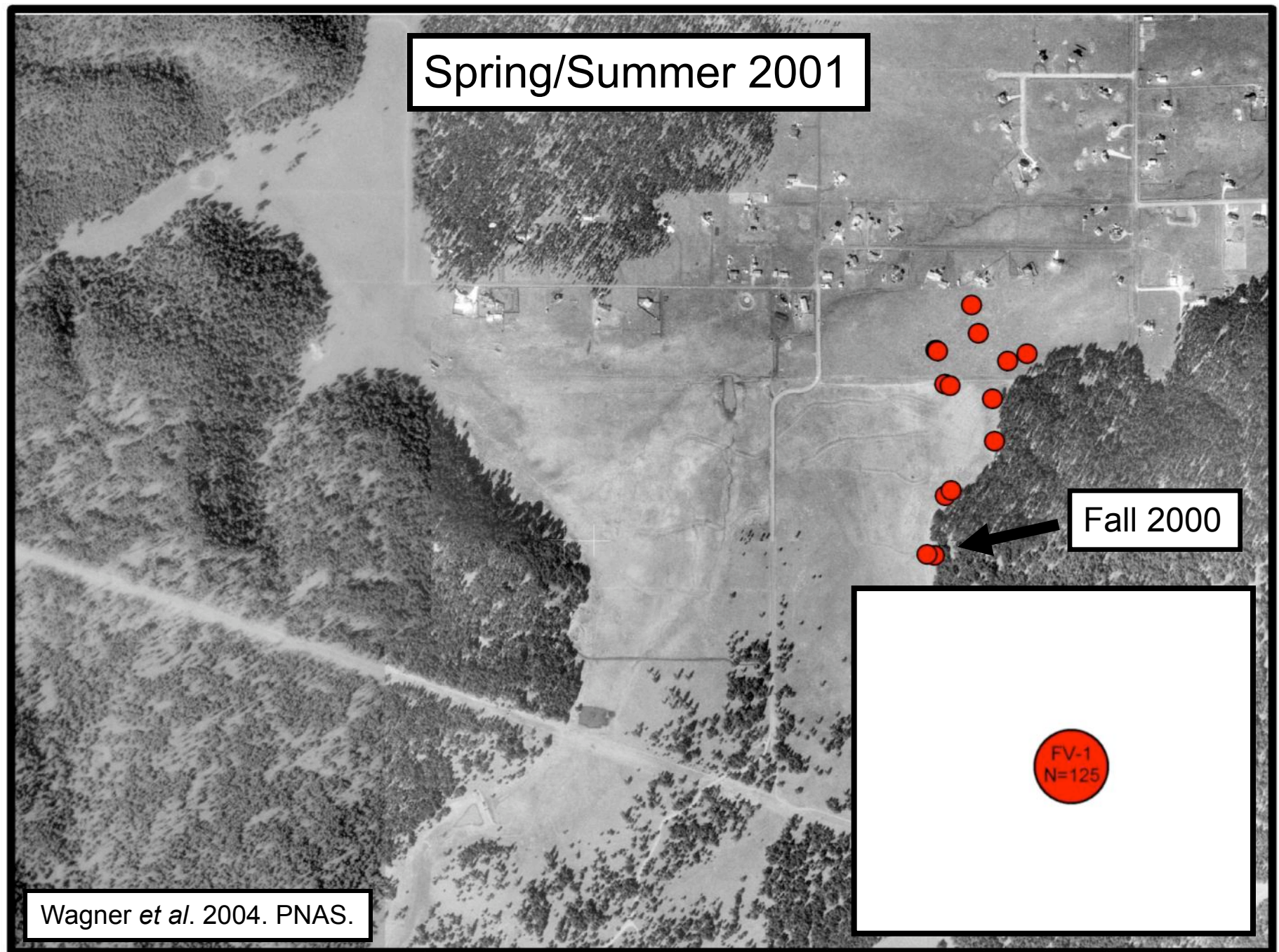


Spring/Summer 2001

Fall 2000

Wagner *et al.* 2004. PNAS.

FV-1  
N=125



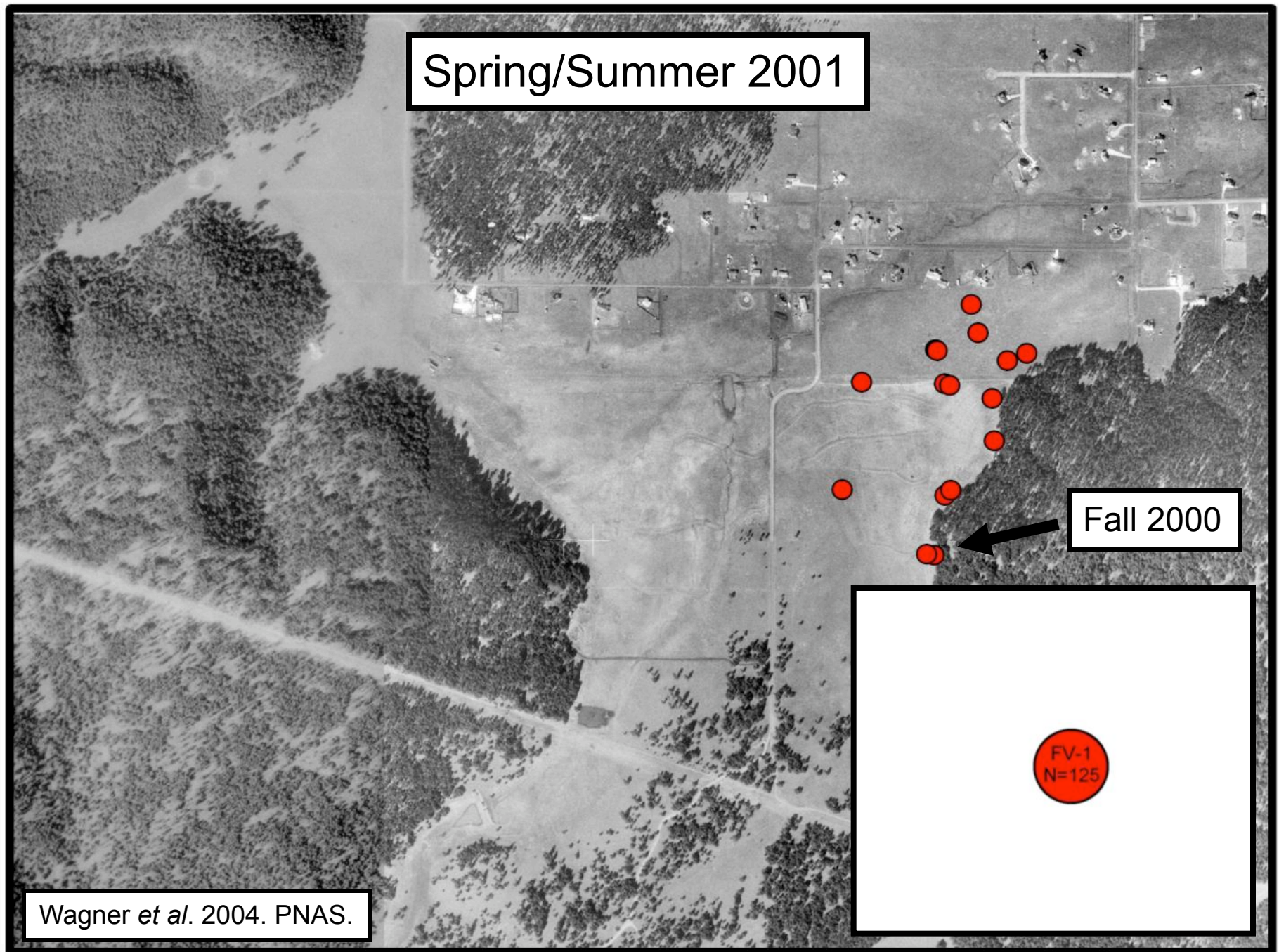


Spring/Summer 2001

Fall 2000

FV-1  
N=125

Wagner *et al.* 2004. PNAS.



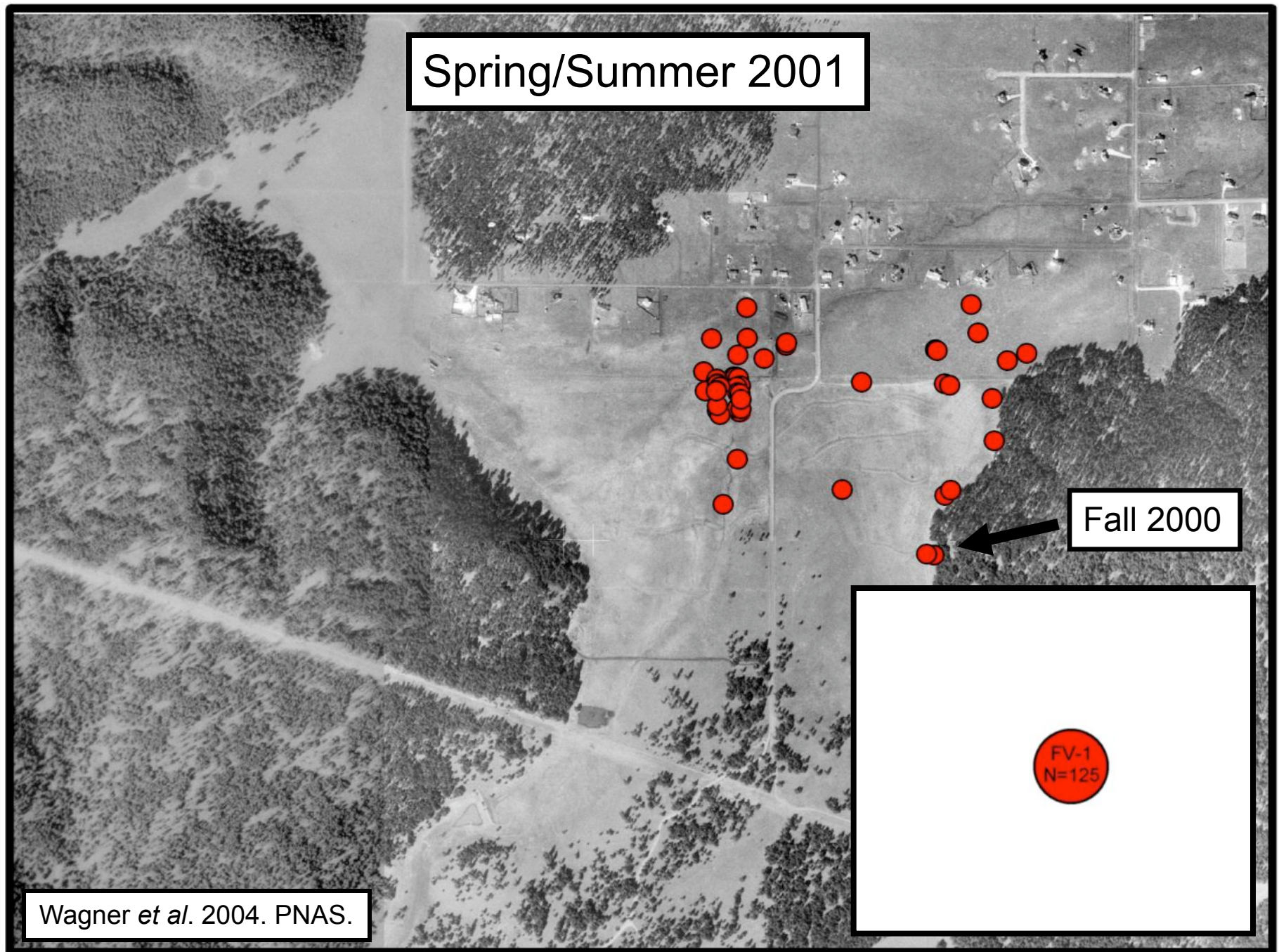


Spring/Summer 2001

Fall 2000

FV-1  
N=125

Wagner *et al.* 2004. PNAS.



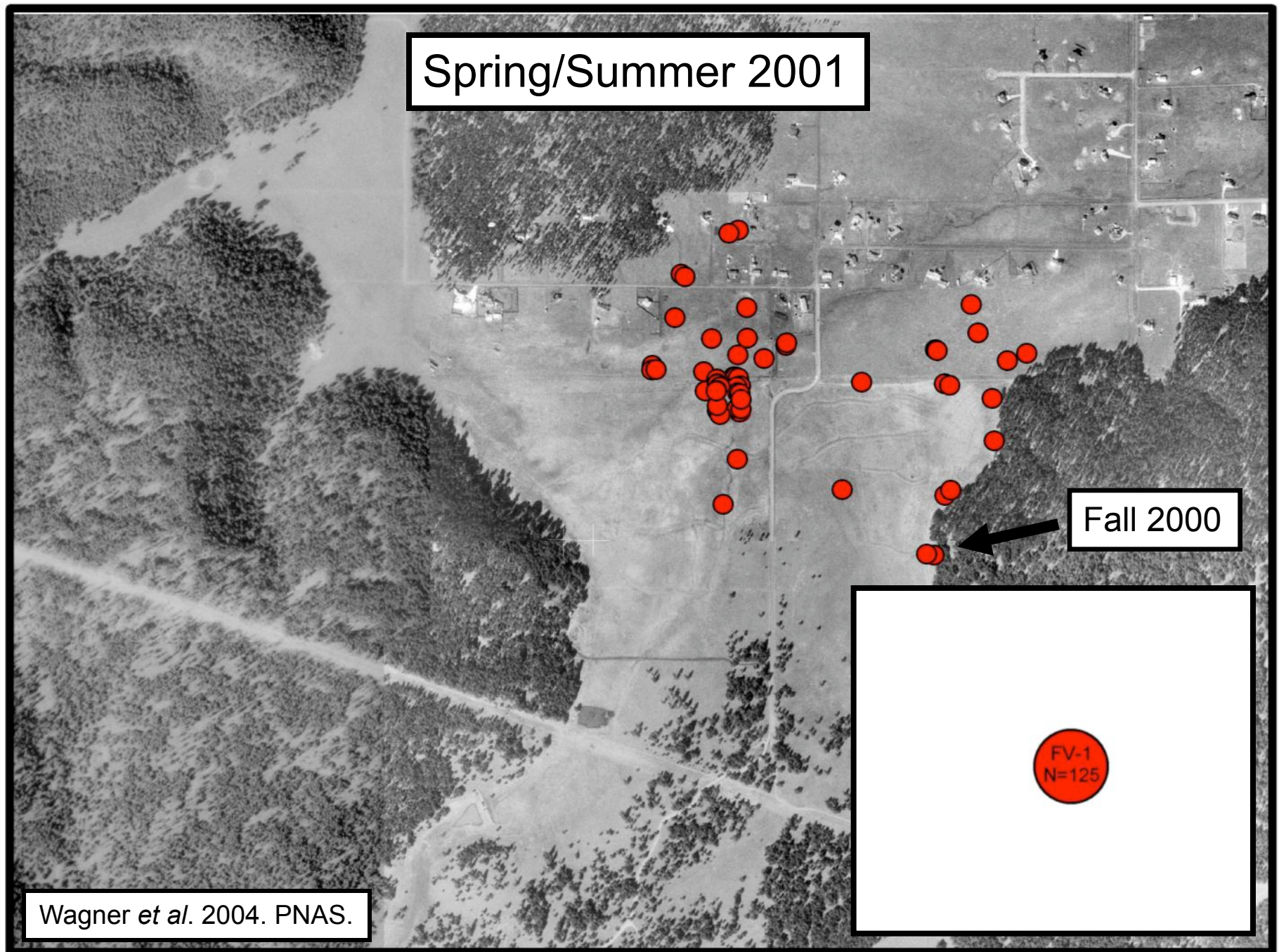


Spring/Summer 2001

Fall 2000

FV-1  
N=125

Wagner *et al.* 2004. PNAS.



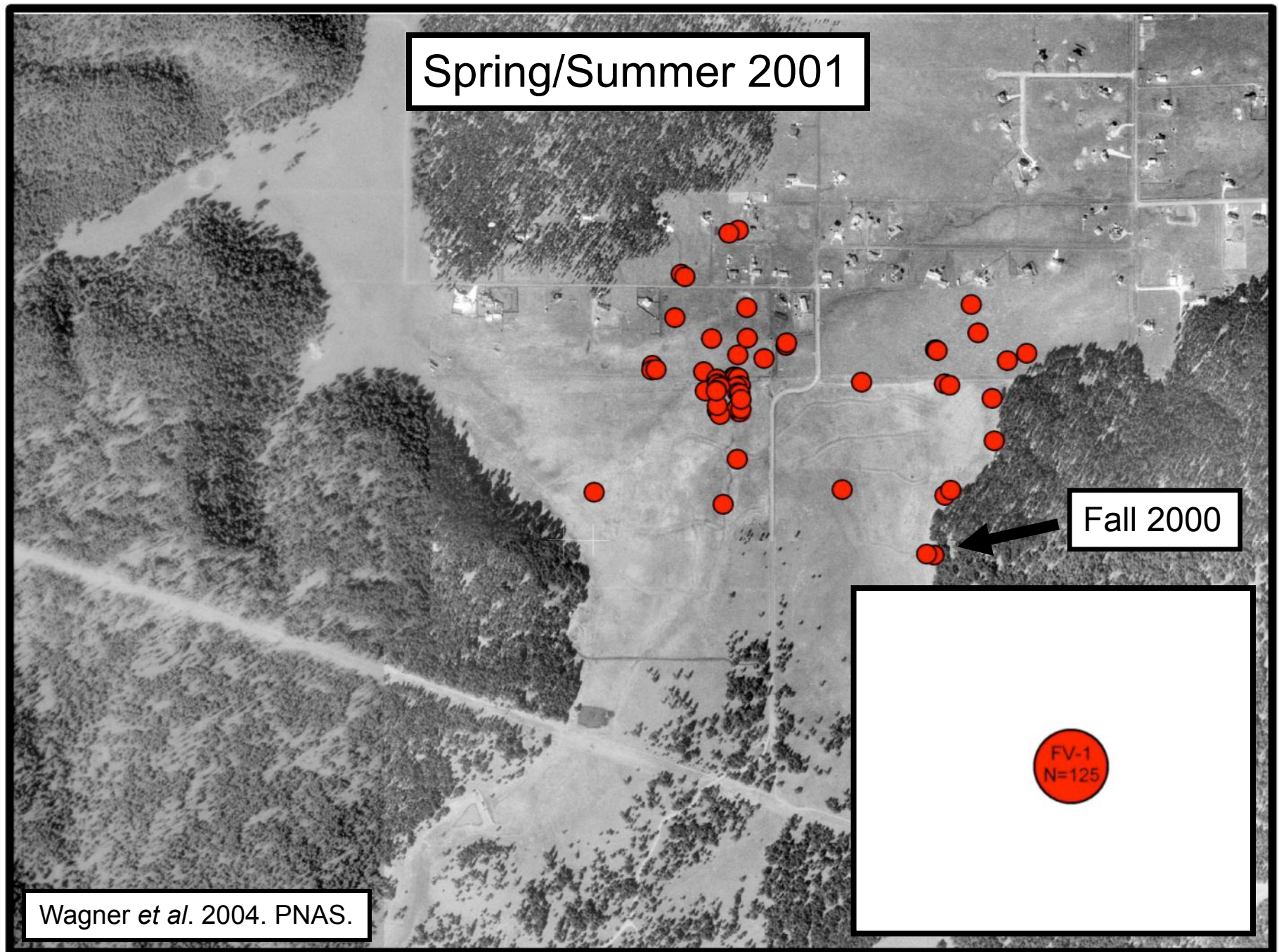


Spring/Summer 2001

Fall 2000

FV-1  
N=125

Wagner *et al.* 2004. PNAS.



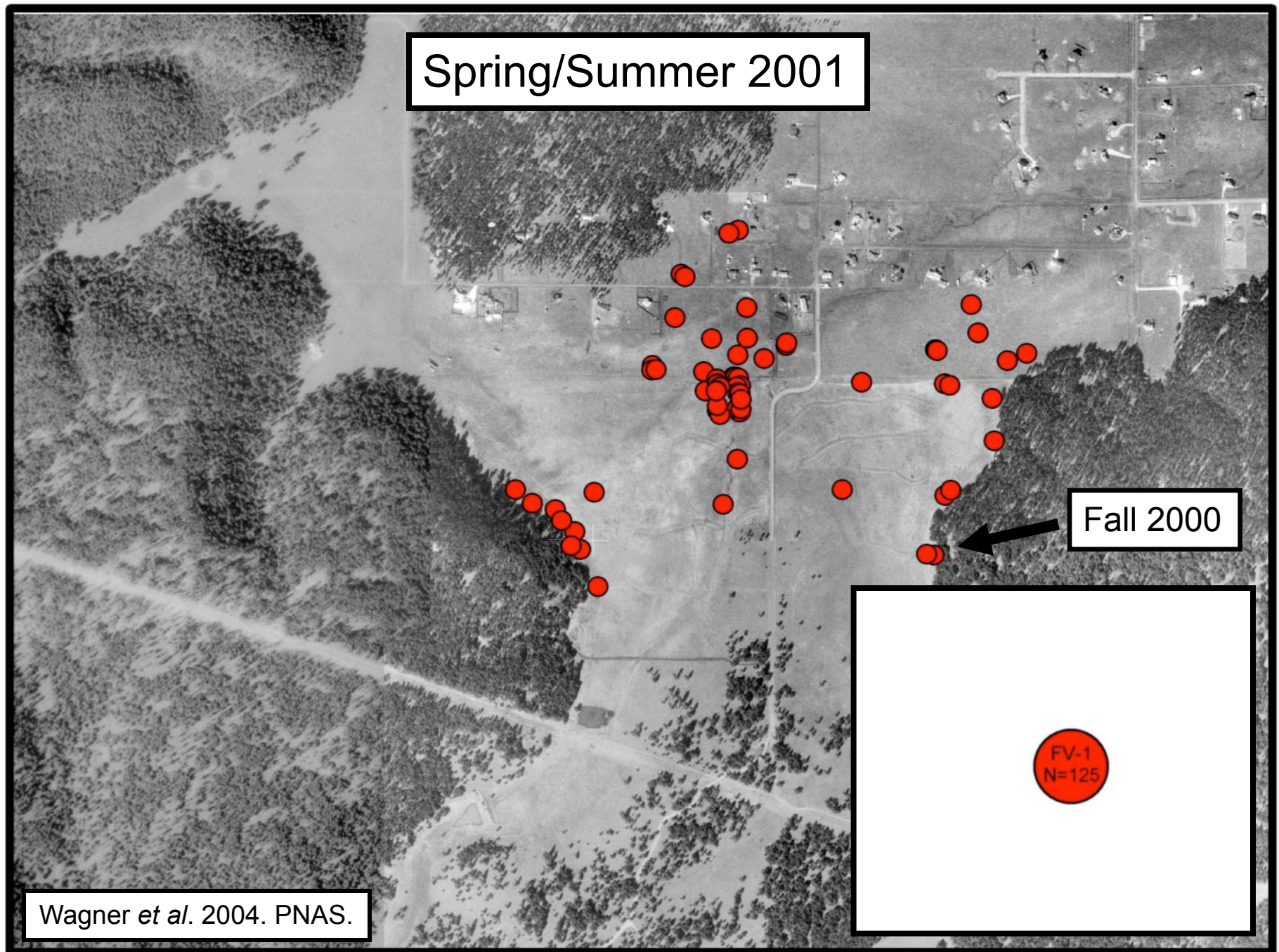


Spring/Summer 2001

Fall 2000

FV-1  
N=125

Wagner *et al.* 2004. PNAS.



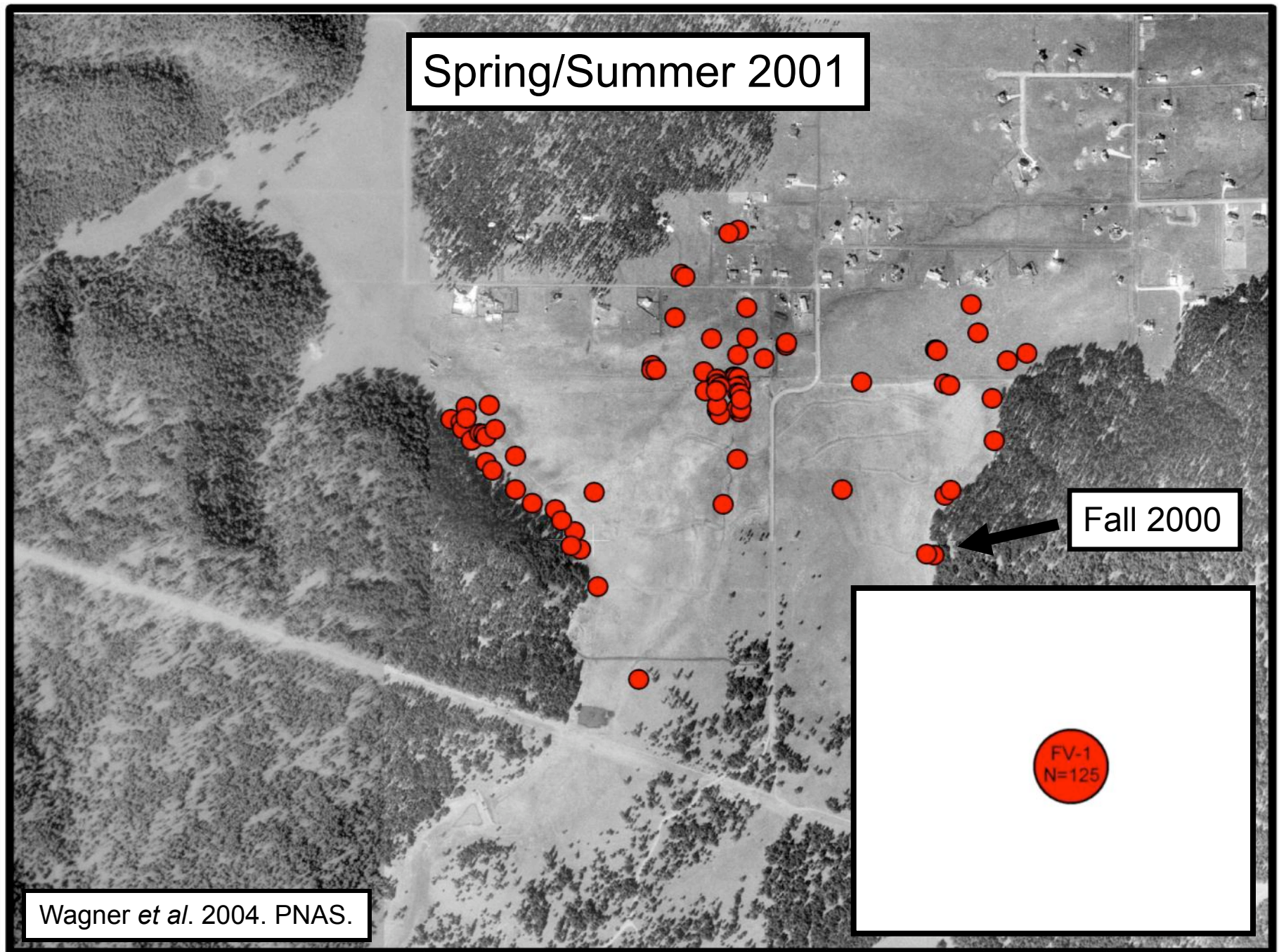


Spring/Summer 2001

Fall 2000

FV-1  
N=125

Wagner *et al.* 2004. PNAS.





Spring/Summer 2001

Fall 2000

Wagner *et al.* 2004. PNAS.

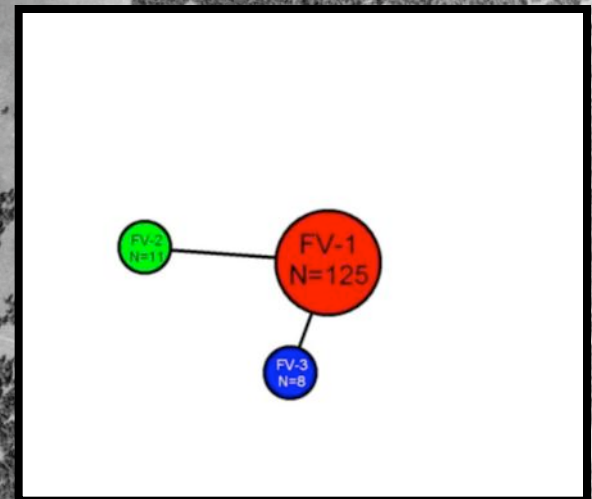




Spring/Summer 2001

Fall 2000

Wagner *et al.* 2004. PNAS.

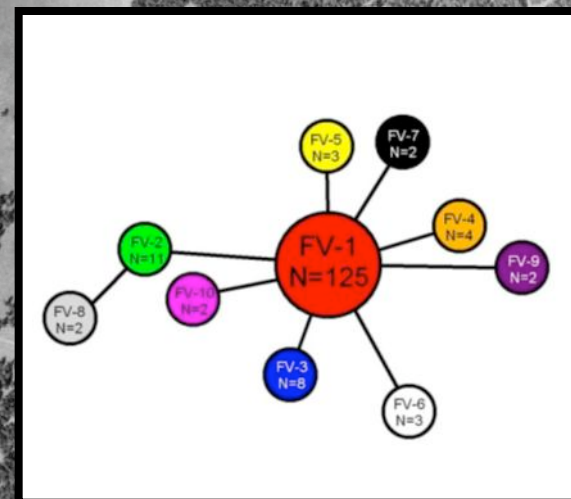




Spring/Summer 2001

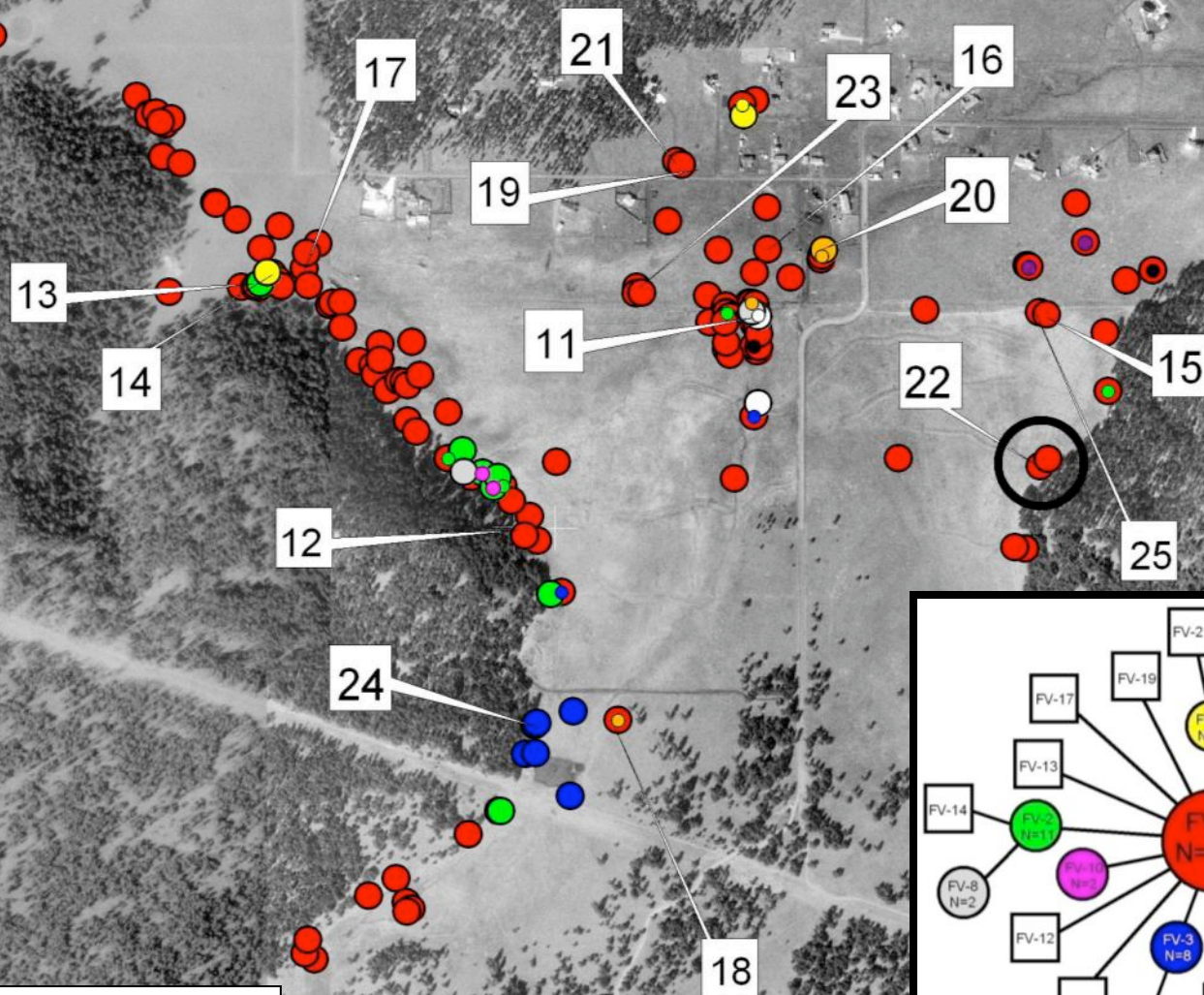
Fall 2000

Wagner *et al.* 2004. PNAS.





# Single Season Outbreak

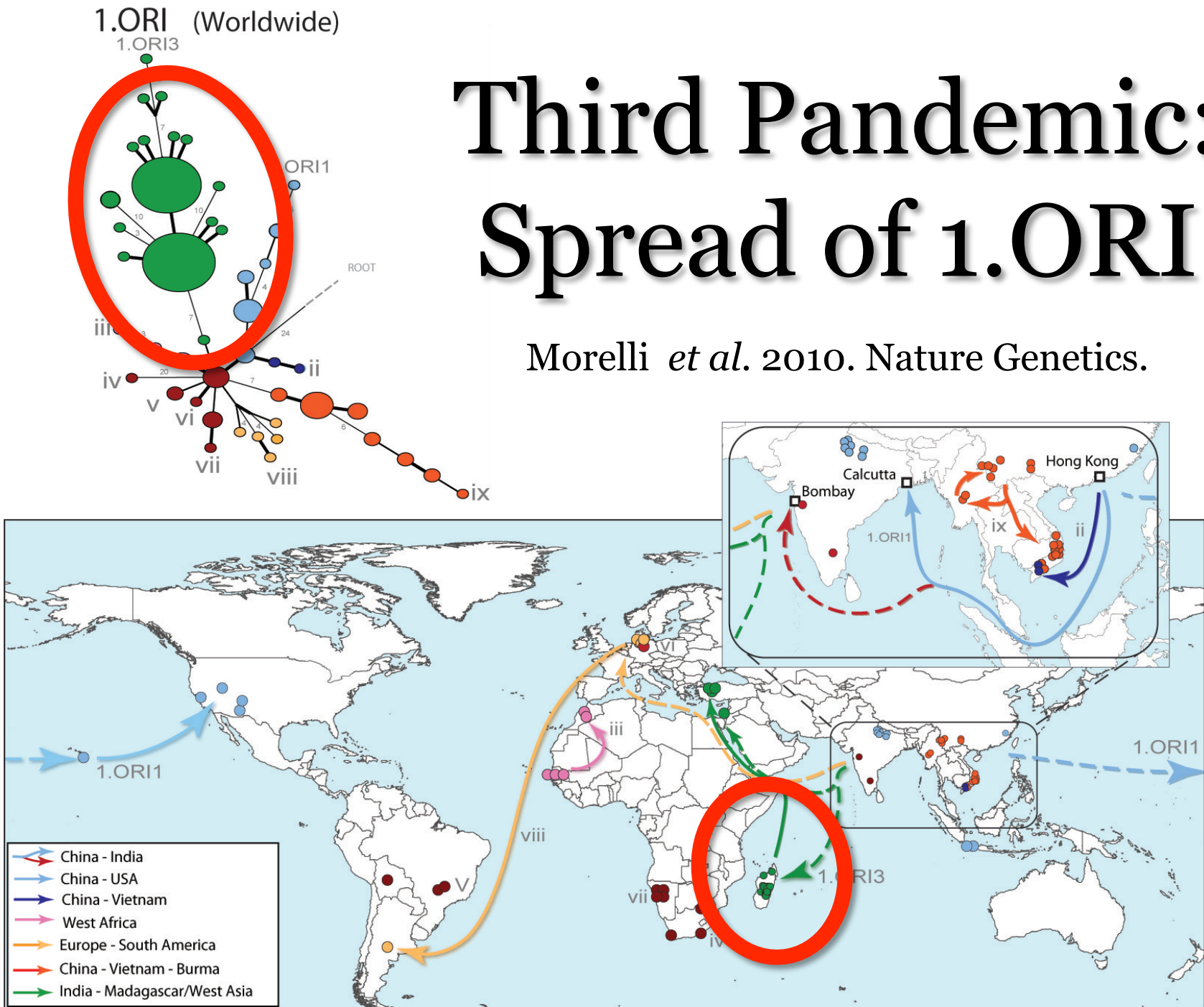


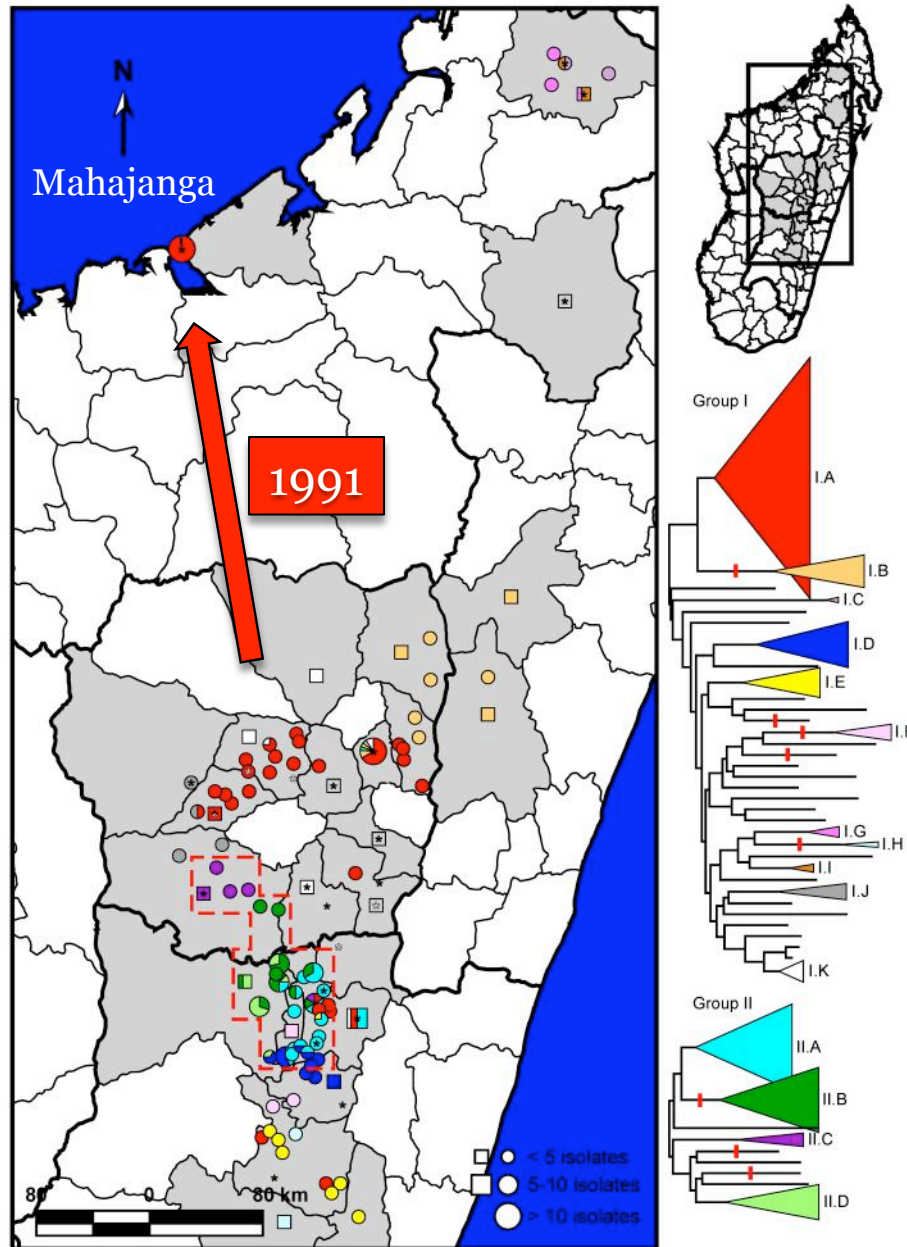
Girard & Wagner et al. 2004.  
PNAS 101:8409-8413.



# Third Pandemic: Spread of 1.ORI

Morelli *et al.* 2010. Nature Genetics.





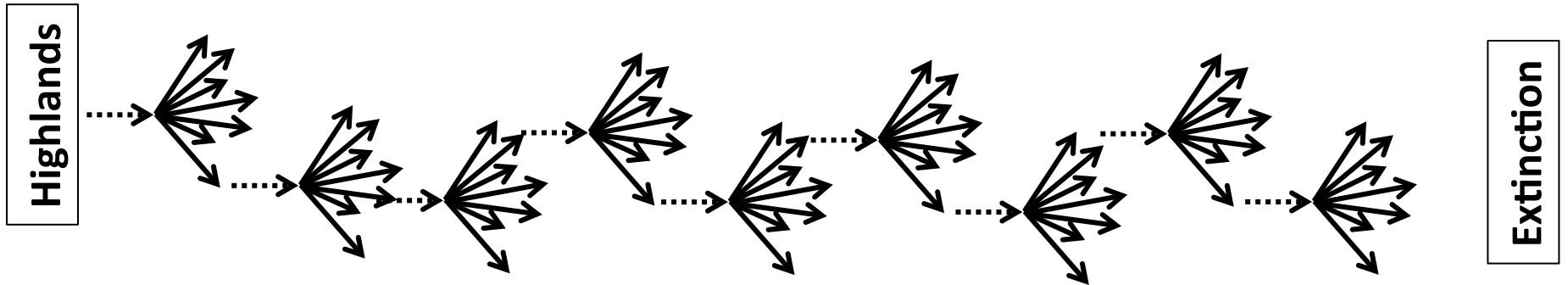
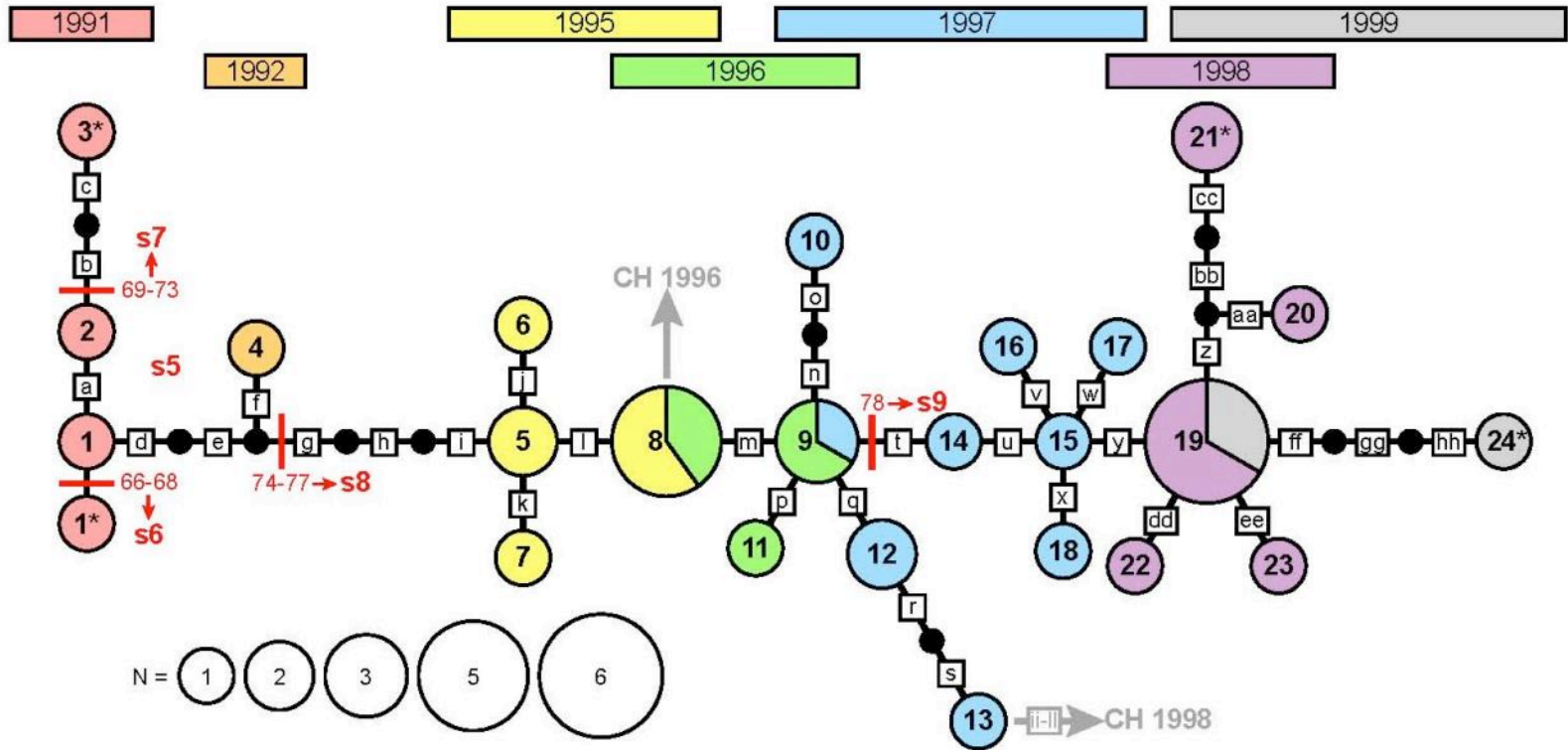
# Madagascar

- Two major groups
- 201 unique genotypes out of 221 isolates
- 11 major clusters
- Mantel Regression  $r=0.006$  ( $p=0.0002$ )

Vogler et al. 2011.  
*PLoS Neg. Trop. Dis.*  
 5(9): e1319.



# Mahajanga Plague Phylogeny



Vogler, unpublished data

# Investigating a laboratory acquired case of plague.

Paul Keim, PhD

Northern Arizona University  
The Translational Genomics Research Institute





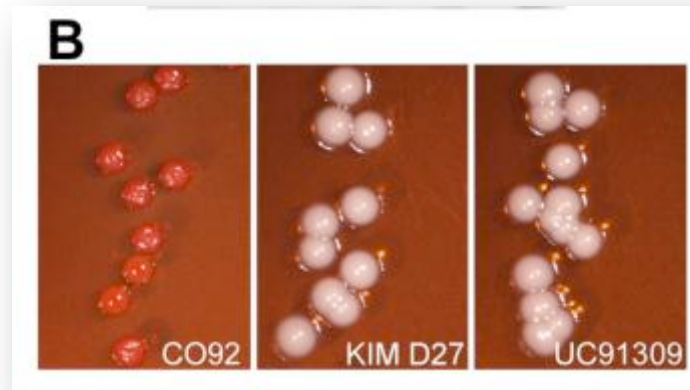
# Case History: A University Scientist

- 60 year old, diabetic male
- Dies 13 hours after presentation in the emergency room
- Worked in Infectious Disease Research – no virulent strains



# blood cultures:

- Gram-negative rods, Gram-positive cocci in chains, a yeast
- *Yersinia pestis*



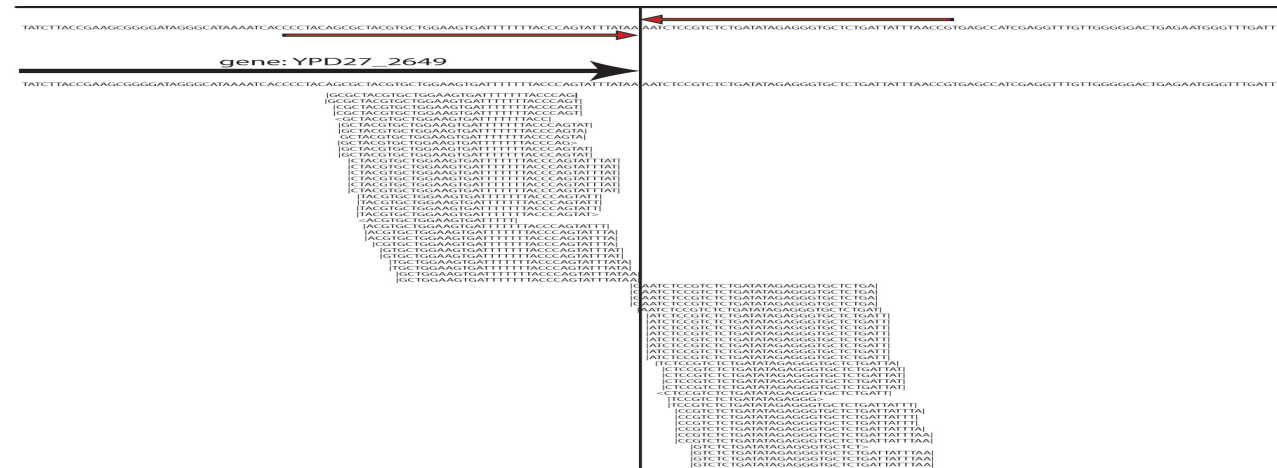
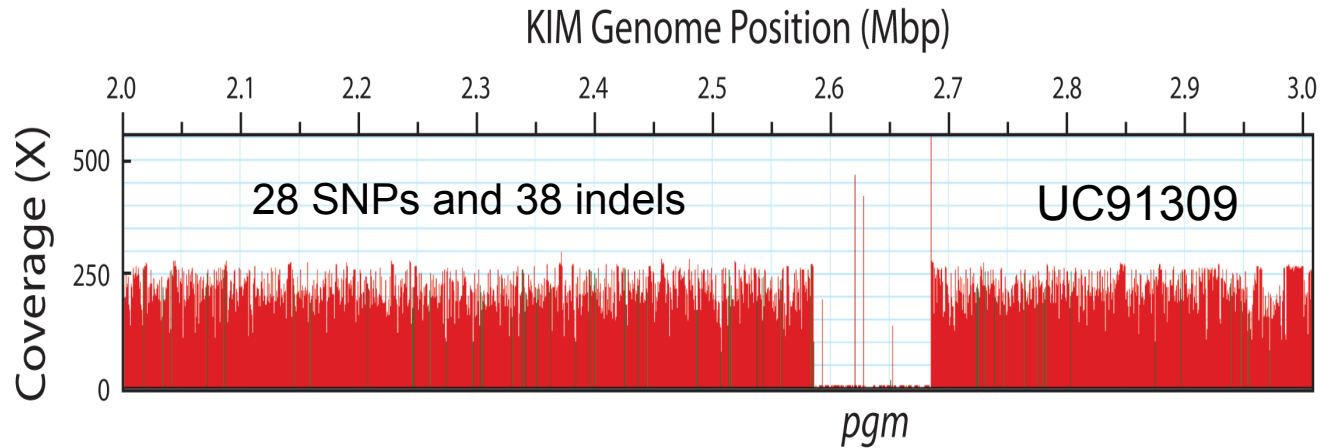




# Whole Genome Sequencing

A.  
Attenuation  
Defect  
Unaltered

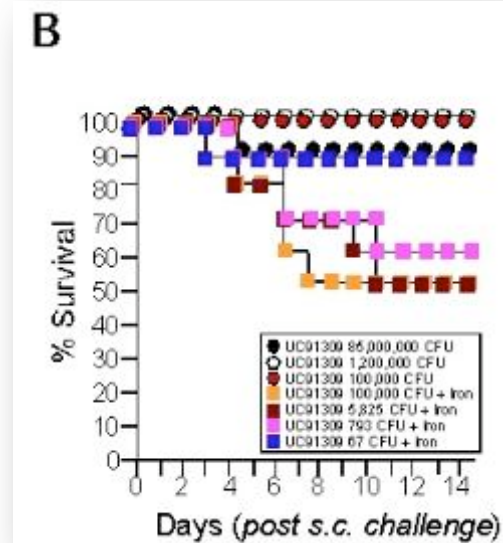
### B. Genetically Engineered Strain





# Animal Trials

## *UC91309*



- Swiss Webster mice infected with *Y. pestis*
- $10^5$  CFU – No deaths with KIM D27 or UC91309
- $10^2$  CFU of CO92 - All mice died
- Supplement with iron – KIM/UC kills mice

# Summary

- Lab acquired infection
- *Y. pestis* – KimD27
- Genetically engineered
- Highly Attenuated
- Why was this lethal?

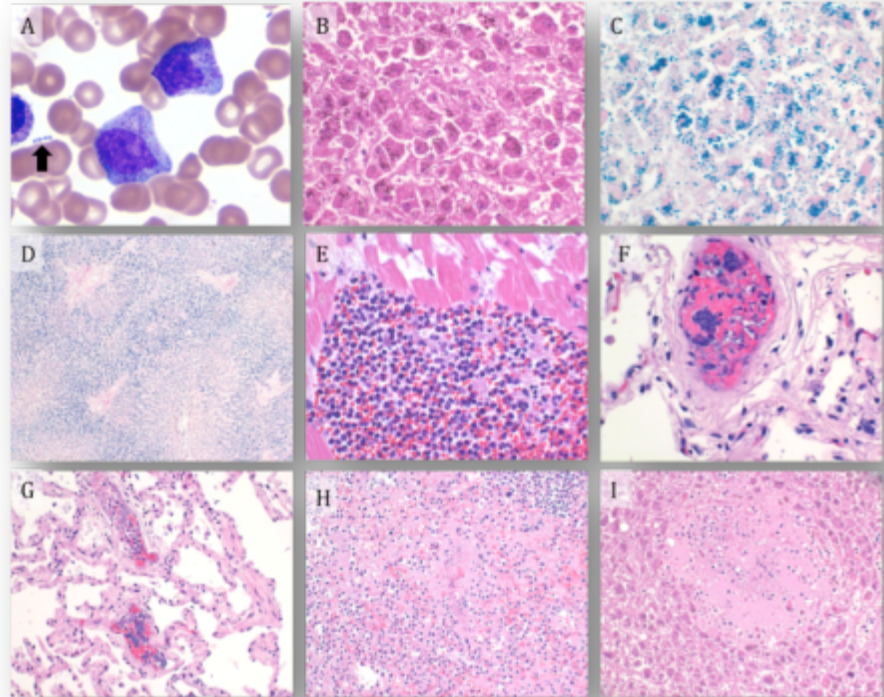


Frank et al.  
unpublished data



# Autopsy

- Liver tissue - massive iron deposits.
- Human *HFE* Genotype: Homozygous C282Y
- Diagnosis of hereditary hemochromatosis



Frank et al.  
*Unpublished data*



- Center for Microbial Genetics and Genomes
- Division of Pathogen Genomics





# Collaborators

- Mark Achtman - U of Cork
- Jacques Ravel - Un Maryland
- Ruifu Yang - Beijing
- Ken Gage, Jeanine Petersen, Michael Kosoy - CDC
- Suzanne Chanteau, Elisabeth Carniel - Institut Pasteur
- Pam Reynolds, Paul Ettestad - New Mexico Department of Health
- Olaf Schneewind, University of Chicago



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Dr. Traci Pals





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